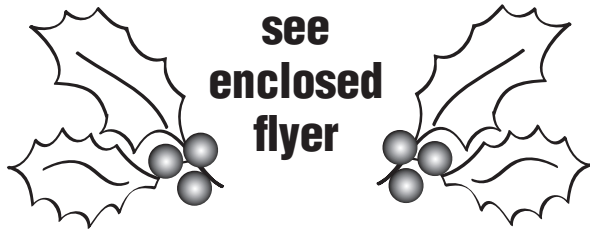


THE VOICE OF WESTERLEIGH

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

November, 2008 Vol. 2 NO. 80 Circulation: 850

ANNUAL HOLIDAY RECEPTION COMING UP



see
enclosed
flyer

DEC. 13
7:30p.m. - 11p.m.
at
IMMANUEL UNION CHURCH
693 JEWETT AVENUE



Westerleigh "Green Bags"
are still available.

Avoid the plastic bag tax
being levied by the city
(free of charge -1 per membership)

Bags may be picked up at
Directors Meetings
on the 1st tuesday
of each month

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this message we have returned to Standard Time and are looking ahead to the holiday season. The Society is planning its Annual Holiday reception on Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Immanuel Union Church. All are invited to attend. Chairperson Sharon Heule has a wonderful program set up for the evening. More information is available on the flyer included with this newsletter.

The Society is still working with the Borough President's office and the DOT on the widening of Victory Boulevard and Manor Road. and Manor Road. We have made our case with the city and are awaiting word on the planned improvements for that problem intersection.

The merchants on Victory Boulevard are proceeding with the formation of the Victory Boulevard Business Improvement District. The city will be receiving the formal application shortly. Public input will be sought and hearings scheduled before any final decision is made. The Westerleigh Improvement Society is a member of the steering committee for the new BID as we know residents do much shopping in that area.

Residents are invited to attend monthly meetings of the Society's Board of Directors held at the Immanuel Union Church on the first Tuesday of each month. Other information is available on our website www.wisonline.org

ANNUAL BUS TRIP TO OCEAN GROVE

By: Sharon Heule



Ocean Grove's Victorian charm was on full display during the sixth annual bus trip to that town's traditional Harvest Festival on Oct. 11.

Westerleigh's sister community at the New Jersey Shore was decked out for the occasion, which was made even nicer by the great autumnal weather. Walking through the town's Main Street was a sheer delight, with block after block crammed full of craft tables that featured everything from refurbished furniture to old lace, antique books, new blown glass, beeswax sculptures, homemade fruit preserves and designer jewelry. Pumpkin painting and pony rides kept the children happy.

For those more historically minded, the Chamber of Commerce provided a plethora of information about the town's past. Restaurants offered some delicious bargains and samples too hard to resist. A big favorite throughout the day was the ice cream parlor, its old-time flavor just the right atmosphere for enjoying its present-day treats. Street musicians kept everyone's toes tapping, making the day even more festive.

Perhaps the most meaningful find for visitors from Westerleigh lay in the treasure trove of memorabilia the Historical Society had on display paying tribute to the 100th anniversary of their Great Auditorium's Hope Jones pipe organ. There, in the center case among the stories of the numerous entertainers and famous personages who performed on the organ, was a piece of music that was written for one poem by our own Edwin Markham, performed for the first time on that very organ! His picture graced the cover, confirming for those of us who saw it, there is, indeed, a nexus of import between our communities.

VICTORY BOULEVARD BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT



Merchants on Victory Boulevard are moving forward with a plan to form a Business Improvement District for the area, which will extend from Todt Hill Road to Mann Avenue.

The BID Steering Committee has held two meetings recently, and invitations were sent to all property owners and merchants in the proposed district. After being informed about the process, many property owners signed in support of the effort.

Benefits to merchants include special sanitation cleanup, graffiti removal and holiday lighting along Victory Boulevard. In addition, the member stores would be included in various District advertising campaigns, and special events would be scheduled to promote the businesses.

The Westerleigh Improvement Society has been a member of the Steering Committee from the outset and supports the formation of the District

SAFE TEEN DRIVING

The topic of safer teen driving was a focus of October's Monthly Directors Meeting agenda.

Assemblyman Matthew Titone presented residents with a riveting address, and he was aided by John Arout, father of Michelle Arout, who died tragically last year in a drag racing crash on the South Shore. Ms. Arout was killed while riding as a passenger in a car driven by a teen driver.

The program proposed by Mr. Arout includes an increase in the number of Driver Education hours both in class and behind the

wheel; a limit on the number of passengers in a car if the driver is 16-18 years old; and to make all passengers in a car who violate the occupancy rule subject to summonses, not just the driver.

Everyone present at the meeting was visibly moved by Mr. Arout's plea to avoid needless deaths by enacting his proposed rules, but unfortunately much work remains to be done before his program is enacted into law. A stumbling block has been the New York State Assembly, which has been reluctant to place the new rules on the agenda in hearings in Albany. It is hoped that the issue will receive serious consideration after Election Day.

Members voted to support consideration of Mr. Arout's proposals and to write our state legislators urging their support as well.



This and That.....

Residents who feel that a street in their neighborhood needs resurfacing are reminded to please inform the Society ... Plans to widen the Victory Boulevard. and Manor Road intersection are moving forward ... The number of plans filed with the Buildings Department. for Westerleigh have dropped off sharply ... Renovations to the front of the original PS 30 building were completed in September. They included new fencing and concrete work ... The recent burst of cellular antennas attached to street poles has caused a number of inquiries to the Society. They are permitted by guidelines set by the federal government.

WESTERLEIGH PARK CALENDAR

Dec 20: WINTER FESTIVAL
7 PM
ANNUAL
TREE LIGHTING/DECORATING
CEREMONY



DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERLEIGH IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

Mark Anderson



Richard Cirbus

Tony Cupo



Charles Curiazza

Thomas DiGiulio

Joseph Ficara

Sharon Heule

John Lastella



Evelyn MacDonald

Michael Morrell



Lou Motola

Mark Otten

Daniel Rieu

Betty Winsch



Mark Zink

Interim Directors

Eric Patterson

Steve Gollinge

Bruce Lauria

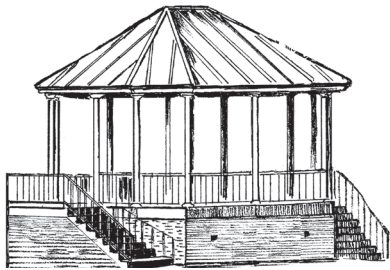


Ed Malone

Richard Verardi

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Staten Island, NY 10314
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Serving the Community for 115 years

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Borough Hall Helpline:
(718) 816-2000

120th Precinct:
(718) 876-8500

Congressman Vito Fossella:
(718) 356-8400

State Senator Andrew Lanza:
(718) 984-4073

Assemblyman Matthew Titone:
(718) 442-9932

Councilman Michael McMahon:
(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)