

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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another seasonal change is upon us here in Westerleigh. I hope all of you had a restful, enjoyable summer season. There was much going on throughout our community. Focusing on Westerleigh Park, the Borough President sponsored two Starlight concerts during July and August. In addition the Friends of Westerleigh Park have hosted numerous activities including band concerts, art lessons, neighborhood get-togethers and have filled the park with good cheer and activity throughout the summer.

As many of you know, the Society has continued to press for the rezoning of Westerleigh to permit only single family homes in new construction and renovation. We have been making some progress and, with the help of Councilman Michael McMahan, have been trying to make a convincing case to the Department of City Planning. As these efforts continue, new construction can proceed following the current zoning R3X which permits detached one and two family homes.

In this issue of our newsletter are some details of the upcoming Westerleigh Home Tour on October 14 which will highlight some of the unique homes in our community. The owners of these homes are welcoming all who register with the tour to view the beauty of their residences and savor the character of our wonderful community.

Our monthly Directors' Meetings continue on the first Tuesday of each month at the Immanuel Union Church. All are welcome to attend and bring matters of concern to the Board. I look forward to seeing you there.



Police Issues in Westerleigh

Preservation League Westerleigh Home Tour Set

Victorian Holiday Opportunity

11 Woodbridge Place



Police issues in Westerleigh

During this past summer a number of locations in Westerleigh experienced large numbers of disorderly youths congregating and disturbing the peace and tranquility of our community. These locations were the area of the Burger King restaurant on Jewett Avenue, the front of PS 30 on The Boulevard and Westerleigh Park and the surrounding area.

At the September Board of Directors Meeting a number of residents in the area described above attended the meeting and reported the incidents near the homes. They also emphasized that police response was slow and on weekend nights almost non-existent.

The Westerleigh Improvement Society contacted the commanding officer of the 120 Precinct, Inspector Richard Bruno. Each of our Council Members was sent a copy of the letter to the Inspector asking for a list of steps to improve conditions in our community. Inspector Bruno responded by stating that police attention in our community will be brought to bear very shortly in numbers to make a difference in our quality of life.

The Society will keep up the pressure to improve conditions at these locations at the 120 Precinct Community Council Meetings and through our elected representative



Preservation League Westerleigh Home Tour Set

The Westerleigh Improvement Society together with the Preservation League of Staten Island is sponsoring a Westerleigh Home Tour highlighting a number of unique homes in our community. The tour is set for Sunday, October 14 between 12 and 5 PM. Registration will take place at the Immanuel Union Church, 693 Jewett Avenue. The cost is \$25 per person. This includes access to all the homes on the tour as well as a buffet at the church at the end of the tour.

There are many homes in Westerleigh noted for both their historical significance and architectural uniqueness. This tour will focus on homes in different parts of Westerleigh. Any members who would like to volunteer as house sitters will be given free admission to the tour. Details about the tour can be obtained from the Preservation League website www.preservestatenisland.org

11 Woodbridge Place

After many years of neglect and deterioration, the house at 11 Woodbridge Place has been purchased by a new owner and is currently in the process of being renovated and restored.

Thanks to the efforts of the Public Administrator Gary Gotlin, the house was sold to the highest bidder in a recent transaction. The new owner is planning to clear the site of its overgrowth and has stated he will make the house his home.



The features of the house are now apparent to the entire community. Hidden for such a long time under a canopy of trees, 11 Woodbridge Place will truly be a gem in the Westerleigh Park area. This is a refreshing change from the demolitions on Jewett Avenue that have resulted in much overdevelopment and the tragic loss of a number of the community's historic houses.

The Society has been in constant contact with the owner and will assist him in any way possible to restore his home to its former glory.

Victorian Holiday Opportunity

For the last four years an independent charter community bus group has taken a meaningful visit to Ocean Grove, New Jersey during summer months to enjoy a day of its local activities and historic significance as Westerleigh's sister site to Prohibition History.

Plans are currently in progress to arrange this year's visit during a different season to experience a Victorian Holiday with all the trimmings: a 19th Century museum doll exhibition, decorated homes, inns, and cottages along an open-house route, a festive chance for socializing during meal options and giftshop browsing.

Anyone interested in coming please call Sharon Heule at 1-718-979-3434 for further details as they emerge. All adults are welcome.

PROHIBITION PARK OPENING.

Ex-Gov. St. John Discusses the Silver as Well as the Liquor Question.

PORT RICHMOND, S. I., July 4.—The Summer services at the auditorium at Prohibition Park, Staten Island, were formally opened for the season to-day with meetings, a banquet, a concert, and a fine display of fireworks. The meetings and the concert attracted large crowds, but the fireworks in the evening attracted fully 7,000 people to the park.

The first meeting was in the morning, when William T. Wardwell, Vice President of the National Prohibition Association, presided in the absence of the President, the Rev. Dr. Charles F. Deems.

The oration was by ex-Gov. John P. St. John of Kansas, who combined patriotism and prohibition in his address, which had the present financial crisis as its main theme. He said the silver dollar which was issued as legal tender was to-day worth only 57 cents, and the people of the country were being robbed of 43 cents for customs, while the interest upon the national debt and the Western farm mortgages were made payable in gold.

He said the law which permitted the issue of a legal tender and then allowed that legal tender to be discriminated against was legalized robbery. It was time that the people of the country rose above the Democratic, the Republican, and even the Prohibition Party, and became patriots.

He spoke of the mortgaged indebtedness of the people of the country, and particularly the farmers of the Western States, and said the country was never so deeply in debt as at the present time. This would never be "the land of the free and the home of the brave" until the people regulated the governmental wrongs at the ballot box.

There were 250 at the banquet at the Park Hotel. After-dinner addresses were made by ex-Gov. St. John, Dr. M. Downing of Poughkeepsie, Chairman of the State Prohibition Committee; Joseph A. Bogardus of New-York, the Hon. Henry B. Metcalf of Rhode Island, D. R. Wood of New-Jersey, Col. A. S. Bacon of New-York, the Hon. E. S. Wallace of Ohio, Dr. I. K. Funk, and Dr. H. L. Wayland of Philadelphia, editor of the *National Baptist*.

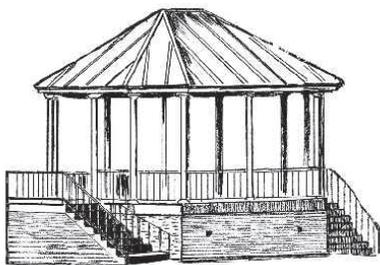
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Important Numbers
that can be used by Westerleigh
residents for civic
and quality of life concerns:

Borough Hall Helpline:

(718) 816-2000

120th Precinct:

(718) 876-8500

Councilman Michael McMahon:

(718) 556-7370

Councilman James Oddo:

(718) 980-1017

Public School 30:

(718) 442-0462

Community Board #1:

(718) 981-6900

Westerleigh Improvement Society, Inc.

Officers:

President... **Mike Morrell**

Vice President... **Rick Wexler**

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)