

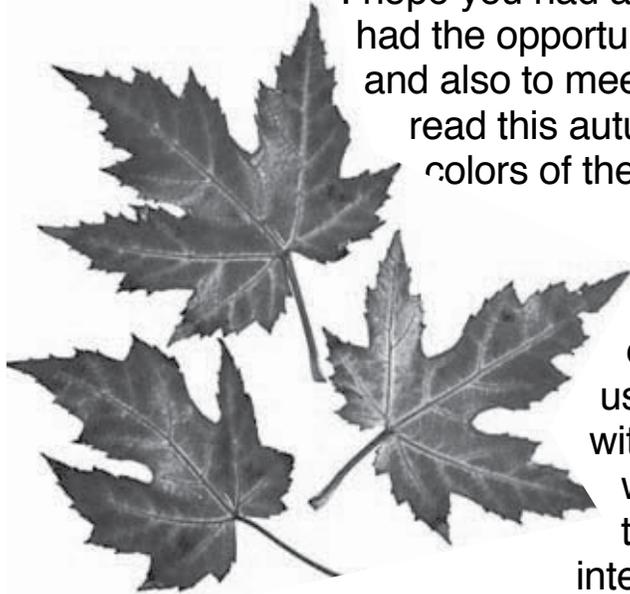
THE VOICE OF WESTERLEIGH

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

September, 2012 Vol. 2 NO. 99 Circulation: 850

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you had a wonderful, restful summer. Many residents had the opportunity to enjoy the concerts in Westerleigh Park and also to meet neighbors both new and old. By the time you read this autumn will have arrived with all of the glorious colors of the season.



The Society is continuing to work with our elected officials to remedy problems in the community. We need your assistance in letting us know issues that you feel we may be of help with. Elsewhere in this issue, editor Lou Bergonzi writes about the long awaited widening of the Victory Boulevard and Manor Road intersection. Thw work is slated to be started next year, We are hopeful that the relief to traffic congestion will be

worth the wait.

Our members are our eyes and ears. If you see something, say something. Many times the Society is able to bring about swift assistance from city agencies if we know about the problem. This fall, the NYC Department of Transportation will complete the milling and resurfacing of many streets that you have told us about. The projects will be completed before the cold weather arrives.

In our next newsletter I will outline the changes in police coverage in Westerleigh due to the opening of the new 121 Precinct. Our community seems to be divided between the 120 and the 121. More on that in the November newsletter.

The Westerleigh community is a terrific neighborhood in which to live and raise a family. The Westerleigh Improvement Society hopes to makes it even better.





STREET WIDENING GIVEN GREEN LIGHT

The traffic congestion that has become a way of life for cars at the intersection of Manor Road and Victory Boulevard may soon be coming to an end.

According to a memo sent by the city's Department of Design and Construction to Joseph Carroll, district manager of Community Board 1, the project to widen the heavily congested corner has been given the green light for fiscal year 2013.

The work is expected to begin next summer. The estimated cost is expected to be in the \$3 million range.



The project will widen Manor Road by some 20 feet, to its current mapped

width of 70 feet, and Victory Boulevard from its current 65 feet to an intended 100 feet. The additional width will be used to establish a dedicated turn lane in both directions, which would allow cars going straight in either direction on Manor Road to avoid being backed up behind cars trying to make a turn against traffic.

The result, according to the letter, will not only reduce congestion, but "improve air quality, safety, overall condition and appearance." President Michael Morrell described the location as a "19th century intersection dealing with 21st century traffic patterns."

The project will require the intersection to be completely re-designed. It will also provide new bus pads, sidewalks, grading, street lighting and a re-design of the traffic signal at the intersection.

The additional space on either side of Victory Boulevard will be obtained from property now belonging to Richmond County Savings Bank next to the Manor Road Post Office and the Mobil service station across the street.

Although the project will ultimately save time, reduce stress and improve conditions for both cars and pedestrians alike, according to the Department of Design and Construction, it will cause a number of problems once work begins. The street will be closed on occasion with the usual construction delays.

A similar project to widen the intersection at Victory and Clove Road has also been approved. It also is expected to begin next summer. Both projects are part of more than \$400 million of road improvements scheduled to take place throughout the borough through 2014. They are part of the city's Department of Transportation's capital program.

FARM TO CITY: STATEN ISLAND 1661-2012



The Museum of the City New York recently opened a stunning new exhibit entitled "Farm to City: Staten Island 1661-2012," which highlights the history of changing land use on Staten Island over the centuries.

What makes the exhibition especially interesting to us in Westerleigh is the inclusion of spectacular photographs lent by the Westerleigh Improvement Society to the Museum of the Keiber Farm.

The Keiber Farm was an active family enterprise in Westerleigh from the 1880s to the mid-1920s. Produce was supplied to many hotels and markets throughout the city. The Keibers were hard-working farmers whose agricultural techniques were well known on Staten Island. Samples of their farm's output were displayed at the Richmond County Fair in the early twentieth century.

The exhibit will be on display at the Museum of the City of New York, 103rd Street and Fifth Avenue, from September to Jan. 21, 2013.



Keiber Farm Exhibit at Richmond County Fair
Produce arrayed as American Flag



VICTORY BLVD BID UPDATE

After years of petitions, promises and promotion to create the Victory Boulevard Business Improvement District the application is set to be filed with the Office of Small Business Services in Manhattan.

The Steering Committee met over the summer and completed finalization of the boundaries of the district. Graffiti removal and sanitation cleanups by a private service will enhance the commercial area from Todt Hill Road to Mann Avenue. In addition, holiday lighting and distinctive signage will be part of the services provided to the merchants on Victory. A district manager will oversee the day-to-day running of the operation of all services.

The Forest Avenue BID has been in operation for several years with great success. Many marketing strategies will be used on the Victory Boulevard corridor that have proven successful on Forest Avenue. The Westerleigh Improvement Society has served on the steering committee of this effort since its inception.



NEW **EnergyWise™ Program**

Are your gas or oil & electric bills getting higher? Do you struggle to stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer? Does your basement flood when it rains? You may be suffering with a drafty, unhealthy & inefficient home. Did you know that there are funds available that can help you make your home more energy efficient, safe and comfortable? Did you know that there are public programs that can help you cut your energy bills? Are you interested in improving your community by practicing green living? Please contact us today for more information:

Neighborhood Housing Services of Staten Island

Not-For-Profit 501c3

770 Castleton Avenue

Staten Island, NY 10310

(718) 732-8084

sjackson@nhsofsi.org

www.nhsofsi.org



Life is Good on Staten Island... We're Working To Make It Better!

Westerleigh Improvement Society, Inc.
P.O.Box 140-043
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www.wisonline.org

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Westerleigh Improvement Society, Inc.

Officers:

President... **Mike Morrell**

Vice President... **Mark Anderson**

Treasurer... **Ed Malone**

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)