



# THE VOICE OF WESTERLEIGH

Newsletter of the Westerleigh Improvement Society, Inc.  
PO Box 140-043, Staten Island, NY 10314

[www.wisonline.org](http://www.wisonline.org)

SEPTEMBER 2015

Serving the Westerleigh community for 122 years

Vol. 51 No. 4

Circulation: 850



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this column the warm weather is still with us and many of us still are searching for a cool place to enjoy the late summer. In just a few weeks all of us will be raking leaves and preparing for the cold weather with the hot days of summer just a memory.

Construction work continues on Jewett Avenue, Veltman Avenue and most recently, Willard Avenue. The good news is that the sewer project is winding down with temporary (and sometimes bumpy) pavement covering our streets. During the fall some of our streets are scheduled to be resurfaced by the DOT.

During the summer more than 850 special newsletters were distributed by volunteers to non-member residents to encourage them to join the Society as full-fledged members. Our membership chair Fran DeSeo is monitoring the returns and is hopeful that we will add to our membership. If you know of a neighbor or friend who would like to join, they can use our website [www.wisonline.org](http://www.wisonline.org) or the membership application on the back of this newsletter.

Sadly, the Society recently experienced the passing of former Vice President Richard Wexler. Rick was active for many years in the WIS in addition to being a talented musician. An article describing his work is in this issue.

As always if there is a problem that you feel the Society can assist with, please don't hesitate to contact us.

*Mike Morrell*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meeting begins at 8 pm.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

Immanuel Union Church

693 Jewett Avenue

at the corner of Maine Ave.

~ Everyone Welcome ~



*The annual Barrack Walk around historic Westerleigh was held on June 6 this year, and included a stop at the 115 year-old Westerleigh Tennis Club, which boasted the first red clay court in the United States.. Pictured: Mike Morrell, WIS President and Arleen Siemietkowski.*

## WESTERLEIGH CAPITAL PROJECTS

They are always a mess, they're noisy and so inconvenient. That is the nature of public works capital projects.

But despite those facts, we must focus on the end result: controlled storm water flow and adequate sanitary sewers. The Society lobbied for many years to obtain funding for these projects. We trust that the objectives will be met.

The latest information on the Jewett Avenue Sewer Project is that the construction is 80% complete. The workers are currently finishing the Willard Avenue storm and sanitary sewer (a small section completely separate from the Jewett Avenue work but part of the same contract). The remaining work will be to attach the catch basins to the sewer pipe itself and to restore the street surfaces.

It appears that the resurfacing of the roads under which the



pipes were installed will not be restored before the spring of 2016. The contractor has too many details to complete before the roads can be repaved. Jewett Avenue requires a concrete base before asphalt can be used to resurface. All that work cannot be completed before the cold weather sets in.

In addition to the ongoing sewer work, the capital project to control drainage in Westerleigh Park will begin by mid-September. Erosion has taken its toll on the landscaping and plantings. The park needs a system that will con-

trol the runoff and it is hopeful the plans for the park will do just that.

The grand plan is that the sewer projects currently underway, coupled with the ones in design, will end any and all issues with storm water near Westerleigh Park. ♪

### Patriotic Sunday



*One of the Society's signature events, the William Schorkopf Memorial Patriotic Sunday celebration, featuring the South Shore band, was held on Sunday, June 28, 2015.*

## RICHARD WEXLER REMEMBERED



Former Westerleigh Improvement Society Vice President, Richard Wexler, passed away at his home in Florida this past June after a long illness.

Rick was an assistant principal at Egbert Intermediate School in Midland Beach as well as a long-time member of the WIS Board of Directors. He was closely involved with the publication of the

Society's 2001 publication "Westerleigh: The Town That Temperance Built."

An accomplished musician, he played lead guitar in "oldies" bands and was supervisor of the student jazz band at Egbert IS.

Rick will be always remembered for his efforts for Westerleigh as well as for his contributions to the education of our youth. ♪

## COMMUNITY POLICING RETURNS TO THE 120 PRECINCT

It's the 21st Century's version of the beat cop of years ago.

Beginning October 1st in the 120th Precinct, the NYPD will pilot a community policing program that will assign a group of officers to a designated area of the precinct.

As explained by Detective Quania Rios of the 120 Precinct during the September 1st meeting of the Society, the officers in the program will be permanently assigned to a specific sector. They will be overseen by a Neighborhood Coordination Officer who will also follow up

on previous problems and act as a liaison with the community.

Previously, the officers would be moved around on an "as needed" basis forcing residents to reacquaint newly-assigned officers with any issues they have been facing. The new Community Policing Program would eliminate that by providing continuity.

The 120 is the first Staten Island precinct to experiment with the program. Each officer in the new program will be able to "get to know" his or her sector thoroughly.

Equipped with cell phones, tablets and other devices, it is believed that the officers will be better able to perform community policing functions.



It is hoped that the stability of the personnel in a given area will also encourage people to better interact with the officers since a familiar person will be dealing with their problems. ☺

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## EIGHTH ANNUAL WESTERLEIGH "Folk Festival"

The weather couldn't have been better and the crowds came like never before. The Westerleigh Folk Festival took place on September 12 in a new venue..Northerleigh Park (home of the Westerleigh Little Guys and Gals). The park was different than the usual location of Westerleigh Park. The musi-

cians, the crafts people and the vendors were more spread out and more distinct. People had places to relax on the grass and enjoy the entertainment from a bevy of popular groups.

Organizer Jim Indelicato and his committee did a wonderful job putting the day together. The kids loved the face painting

and pony rides. All the musicians were local and were made to feel at home in our community. The crafts people offered a variety of locally created arts and crafts.

Best of all, Westerleigh was host to the event. All of us are looking forward to the Ninth Festival! ☺

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## ECHOES FROM "THE VOICE OF WESTERLEIGH"

Q: Milk is a big expense in my household budget. What is the going price in Westerleigh for home delivery and in supermarkets? And why don't they sell milk in gallons?

A: Inquiries made to milk distributors produced a low price of 28 cents a quart for four or more more delivered daily. Supermarket sales of half a gallon cost

54 cents, last time we inquired. In the answer to the second part of your question, there has been no reason put forth by any milk distributor, except that gallon containers are against the law. An inquiry to Governor Rockefeller, brought this response from his Assistant Counsel, Mr. Schmidt. "Although NY law at one time did not permit milk to be sold in

From our newsletter archives here is a Question & Answer column from 1964.

gallon containers, section 191 of the Agriculture & Markets law was amended in 1957 expressly to authorize such sales. I have never purchased milk in Staten Island but I can assure you that milk is lawfully and readily available to purchase in gallon containers in Albany."

