



THE VOICE OF WESTERLEIGH

Newsletter of the Westerleigh Improvement Society, Inc.

PO Box 140-043, Staten Island, NY 10314

www.wisonline.org

JANUARY 2016

Serving the Westerleigh community for 123 years

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Despite the recent warm temperatures winter has taken hold in Westerleigh. The holidays are a memory and residents are awaiting their first snow-fall as this is written.

We note with great sadness the passing of our longtime secretary Evelyn MacDonald. I relied on her diligence to complete many tasks which she did so efficiently. The production and mailing of this newsletter was something made possible by her hard work. We will miss her greatly.

Our Holiday Party was a great success with many residents and friends attending. Many thanks to Eileen and Joe Ficara, Mark Anderson and the late Evelyn MacDonald for their help.

We are resuming our Westerleigh Talks hosted by Vice President Mark Anderson. They are held the same night as our monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Mark has a number of interesting topics in preparation. Please check our website www.wisonline.org for the latest updates.

Each month representatives of our elected officials attend our meetings. If there is a problem that you wish addressed quickly, please attend and it will get immediate attention. We also invite the police from the 120th and 121st precincts to attend as well.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

HAVE YOU ALREADY PAID FOR 2016?

Some members paid twice in 2015 and we applied the credit to their 2016 dues. Check the top line of your newsletter's mailing label. If it says 2016 you are up-to-date. All others will receive their notice by the end of January. Thank you! ☺

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meeting begins at 8 pm.
Westerleigh Talks at 7 pm.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

Immanuel Union Church

693 Jewett Avenue
at the corner of Maine Ave.

~ Everyone Welcome ~

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

WHY IT MATTERS

The Westerleigh Improvement Society is one of the Island's largest civic associations with over 600 members. This gives our community a strong voice with elected officials and government agencies. Please respond quickly to your 2016 renewal letter from Fran DeSio, membership chair. Your donation supports the work of numerous volunteers in the preservation and protection of our neighborhood and enables our communications to you. Thank you! ☺

IN MEMORIAM: EVELYN OTTEN MACDONALD

It is with great sadness that the Westerleigh Improvement Society notes the passing of our beloved former secretary, Evelyn MacDonald.

Evelyn served as the Society's secretary for over 20 years, scrupulously recording meeting minutes and volunteering for many activities of the Society, including Patriotic Sunday in Westerleigh Park, the annual Holiday Party, and as an important contributor in the preparation and mailing of the Society's newsletter, "The Voice of Westerleigh."

Evelyn was extremely active and involved in her community.

She served as the archivist for the Port Richmond High School Alumni Association and as an historic guide at Richmondtown Restoration. Her busy lifestyle included attending events and classes at the YMCA and the JCC.

In her professional life, Evelyn was a registered nurse who worked for the Visiting Nurse Association of Staten Island for many years.

"Evelyn was a cheerful and spirited soul who uplifted everyone she met," said Regina Paleau, WIS newsletter designer. "We will all miss her greatly." ❧



A memorial service for Evelyn MacDonald will be held Saturday, January 30 at 10 a.m., at Immanuel Union Church.

SEWER PROJECT AND WESTERLEIGH PARK UPDATE



As the cold weather approaches, contractors working on the capital projects on Jewett Avenue and side streets as well as Westerleigh Park will continue working as weather permits.

Final work on the sewer project is just about completed with the exception of the resurfacing of all streets. It appears most of that work will be completed in the spring. Initial reports indicate

success – rainfall has been diverted into the catch basins and the flooding that was so prevalent is now a memory.

Work in Westerleigh Park has been sporadic to date. A large section of the park below Willard Avenue down to the bandstand has been fenced off. According to projections from the Parks Department the project should be completed in 2016. Stay tuned. ❧

REMINDER FROM THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

In the past many new street trees have been requested by Westerleigh residents and have been planted in numerous locations, where appropriate.

This tree planting program continues and the Parks Department has asked the Society to promote it. If any residents wish an evaluation of a location for a new tree, please email the Society at wis_si@yahoo.com and we'll assist you.

In addition, the Department has asked the Society to provide the locations of any remaining street tree stumps. A contractor has been assigned to our area to grind stumps and restore the location. Contact us if there is a stump in your area. ❧



EWASTE – DISCARDING YOUR ELECTRONICS

If you're one of those persons who holds on to things long after their usefulness – specifically with long-obsolete electronic items – then suddenly find you can't put them out for curbside pickup ... well, New York City finally has some good news for you. It's now easier than ever to get rid of those e-waste items. A whole lot easier.

The Department of Sanitation has instituted a number of programs that make getting rid of those previously impossible-to-discard items almost as easy as putting out your trash. Here are some of them:

1 A DSNY drop-off site is now open every Saturday and the last Friday of the month from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1000 West Service Rd. in Travis, at the foot of the Muldoon Avenue exit of the West Shore Expressway.

2 If you are a senior citizen 65 or over or suffer from a

disability you can arrange a free pickup, courtesy of the non-profit group, Where To Turn. For Westerleigh residents, call Councilman Steven Matteo's office at (718) 980-1017 and make a request. You will be contacted by a member of Where To Turn within two weeks to arrange a pick-up date.

3 Special e-waste recycling events are still scheduled at regular intervals. For a complete listing of the dates, check the GrowNYC website.



What items qualify as e-waste? Here's a partial list:

DVR and VHS players, tapes and discs, bulky and heavy TVs, out-of-date computers and

You can be fined \$100 for placing certain electronics at the curb for disposal.

monitors, digital converter boxes, cable and satellite receivers, electronic video games and consoles (including hand-held devices), and microwaves. For a listing of all electronics subject to the fine, visit: <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/zerowaste/residents/electronics.shtml>

Secure Disposal

Lastly, if you're wondering about someone finding some sensitive, private information or personal data on your discarded items – don't. Electronic Recyclers International, the company that handles the e-waste operation for the city, assures everyone that all materials collected are shredded into miniscule pieces, under top surveillance standards that eclipse those of the Department of Defense. ☺



Evelyn MacDonald (far left) entertaining friends, along with Sharon Heule (2nd from left), another WIS director.

WESTERLEIGH IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY 12/5/2015



Mark Anderson (center), known for his Westerleigh Talks series on our neighborhood's history, enjoys the evening with his guests.

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WIS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ANNUAL DUES:

Resident Membership \$10 ____ Associate Membership \$20 ____

NAME: _____

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(the number on the upper left of mailing label)

Please mail this form with your check made payable to the Westerleigh Improvement Society, P.O. Box 140-043, Staten Island, NY 10314