



THE VOICE OF WESTERLEIGH

Newsletter of the Westerleigh Improvement Society, Inc.

PO Box 140-043, Staten Island, NY 10314

www.wisonline.org

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Serving the Westerleigh community for 125 years

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, snowing is falling and my neighbors are struggling to keep sidewalks and driveways clear. But the white blanket makes the neighborhood look pristine and gives a wintry mantle unique to the season.

With the holidays behind us we begin the coldest months with an eye to the upcoming spring and what lays ahead for our community. One group that will be missing will be the Friends of Westerleigh Park. The volunteer group has disbanded, and the reason is explained in an article on page 3. The work they have done over the past 16 years has beautified the park and has provided the community with many activities. They will be greatly missed.

The police have reminded us that car surfing (individuals randomly checking car doors) is on the rise. Many opportunities for thieves can be avoided by simply locking our cars and keeping valuables out of sight. Reports of this crime have been occurring in all parts of Westerleigh. Cars parked off-street in driveways are not immune.

I would urge any residents who feel they have an issue that the Society can help with to attend a monthly meeting at Immanuel Union Church or email us. Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month. The January meeting had representatives from seven (!) elected officials: State Senator Lanza, State Assemblymen Titone and Cusick, City Comptroller Scott Stringer, Borough President Oddo, Council Member Matteo and District Attorney McMahon. Your issue will be heard and every effort will be made to assist.

Mike Monell

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

Immanuel Union Church

693 Jewett Avenue
at the corner of Maine Ave.

~ Everyone Welcome ~

Dues Renewal Kickoff

Membership Chair Fran DeSio will be mailing renewal notices in the next few weeks to all members for 2017 dues. Those members who have already paid will not receive a notice. It is important that members respond as soon as possible in order for the Society's functions to continue.

Your promptness in past years has allowed us to provide information through our newsletter and to support the volunteers of our organization in all they do for the community.

DANGEROUS PONDING CONDITIONS

Recently resurfaced streets in Westerleigh have made car travel smoother and more comfortable. In the process of resurfacing the DOT has created some ponding conditions that have been reported to the Society. Water that is a nuisance in warm weather is dangerous in the cold weather of January. Icy intersections are a hazard for both cars and pedestrians.

Residents have reported ponding at various intersections along Livermore Avenue and Jewett Avenue. The DOT has been informed of these conditions and hopefully will remediate the ponding when the weather permits. ☺



ECHOES FROM “THE VOICE OF WESTERLEIGH”

~ ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS THROUGH THE YEARS ~

We wanted to provide an update on the Victory Boulevard/ Manor Road intersection improvement project, but there is nothing new to report. The NYC DDC hopes to complete the property acquisition for the project in 2017. The Society has been active in many such community projects over the years, helping preserve Westerleigh’s quality of life. Here’s a Spring 1968 newsletter article about Watchogue Road and its need for modernization, edited for length.

When Watchogue Road was only a quiet path running down through the farms there was no reason to be concerned about it being adequate to serve the needs of the community. It did what it was intended to do, as people casually walked in the peaceful roadway on their occasional errands.

Today, however, Watchogue Road presents a problem. There is heavy traffic, both pedestrian and automobiles, trucks and buses... There are not enough sidewalks to allow pedestrians to pass in safety.

Children walking to school must walk in the road with the heavy traffic... as sidewalks are often non-existent on both sides of the road. Stores near Livermore Avenue have had parking completely eliminated on one side of the street. The other side of the street has had one third of its length gobbled up by a bus stop...

What is to be done? The residents along Watchogue Road should, in courtesy to their neighbors, provide sidewalks, or at least walkways, for pedestrians. They should

do this now, before a child or an adult is injured in the street. The bus stop should be moved back to its original site, on the opposite side of the street. This would give the stores a better opportunity to attract customers.

For the city to install sidewalks, condemnation proceedings will have to be initiated to acquire title...

The Westerleigh Improvement Society will continue to concern itself with the need for improvement of Watchogue Road.... ☺

FRIENDS OF WESTERLEIGH PARK - GOODBYE & THANK YOU

Friends of Westerleigh Park, a group that dedicated itself to the care, preservation and community utilization of Westerleigh Park, has disbanded.

The organization, which was formed in 2000 by Denise Lakeman, cited its inability to conform with New York City insurance regulations as the chief reason for its action, which was made official this past December 19.

The decision came following a meeting with Staten Island Parks Commissioner Lynda Ricciardone at which time the group was officially



informed it needed liability insurance to cover member volunteers working at the park.

Members of the non-profit group felt they were not financially able to cover the costs of such a policy. The group had hoped its members could be covered by the Parks Department under its liabil-

ity protection or other self-insured policies. When told that was not possible under current city regulations, the group said it would disband.

State Assemblyman Michael Cusick and New York City Council Member Steven Matteo attempted to help the group with funding, but no agreement could be reached.

During its existence, Friends of Westerleigh Park sponsored various clean-ups, family events and movies at the park, which was donated to the city in 1907 by the National Prohibition Park Company. ♪

UPCOMING SEWER PROJECT

~ CONCERNS ABOUT PROPERTY DAMAGE ~

There was a concern voiced at a recent Society meeting that homeowners might sustain property damage due to construction during the sewer project due to start in the spring of 2017.

A representative of Comptroller Scott Stringer pointed out that homeowners have a right to file a claim against the city should property be damaged or destroyed.

The link to obtain the appropriate form is: <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/services/for-the-public/claims/file-a-claim/>

Prior to the actual construction beginning, a community meeting will be announced and all questions regarding construction will be addressed. A community construction liaison will be appointed to handle day to day questions and concerns. ♪

LOCK YOUR CAR



Police advise all Westerleigh residents to take precautions due to a recent spate of car surfing incidents (individuals randomly checking for open car doors).

The Society is reminding everyone to remove all valuables and lock car doors, even those kept in driveways. Better safe than sorry! ♪

