



THE VOICE OF WESTERLEIGH

Newsletter of the Westerleigh Improvement Society, Inc.

PO Box 140-043, Staten Island, NY 10314

www.wisonline.org

APRIL 2017

Serving the Westerleigh community for 125 years

Vol. 52 No. 2 Circulation: 850

PATRIOTIC SUNDAY IN WESTERLEIGH PARK

SUNDAY, JUNE 25 AT 2 PM

FEATURING THE MUSIC OF THE SOUTH SHORE BAND

BRING FOLDING CHAIRS. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems as though the last of winter has passed and the warmer temperatures of the spring are upon us.

Westerleigh enjoyed both warm and frigid weather during the past few months. But spring plantings have started and the first of the colorful arrays of tulips are appearing.

For those who have noticed, this newsletter appears using a different format for printing. We have upgraded our printing facilities and we will be able to produce our publication more efficiently.

We must bring to your attention some financial matters that affect the viability of this Society. Despite our strong efforts to contain costs over the past several years the Board of Directors finds it necessary to recommend a dues increase. This will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 17.

Also at the Annual Meeting, our guest speaker will be District Attorney Michael McMahon. He is a well-known figure in Westerleigh, having served as our Council Member for eight years. His role as chief legal officer for our borough has given him awesome responsibilities. We look forward to his comments on many issues affecting Staten Island.

As we go to press we have just been informed about the Wardwell Avenue sewer project (see page 2). Before any work begins there will be a community meeting called by the DDC (Department of Design and Construction) to which all residents affected by the construction will be invited. Any issues will be addressed by the contractor and a Community Construction Liaison will be assigned. More to come on this topic.

As always please contact the Society if there is any issue which you feel we can assist you.

WESTERLEIGH IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Guest Speaker

Staten Island District Attorney

MICHAEL MCMAHON



WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 8 PM

Immanuel Union Church

693 Jewett Avenue

~ Everyone Welcome ~

Refreshments Will Be Served

UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

TUESDAY, MAY 2

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

8 PM. Immanuel Union Church

WARDWELL AVENUE SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

The long awaited Westerleigh sewer project that will improve storm and sanitary sewers throughout a large portion of Westerleigh has finally been assigned to a contractor. The actual construction will begin after the close of the school year. Among the affected streets are Wardwell, Fisk, Leonard, Waters and Deems Avenues and Markham and Dakota Places.

EE Cruz is the firm that



has been awarded the contract for the project and will work according to the specifications outlined by the Department of Design and Construction (DDC). Prior to the start of work, there will be a community meeting to which all residents affected by the

construction will be invited. The scope of the work will be explained and the Community Construction Liaison will be introduced. The Liaison will be an individual who will act as the go-between for homeowners to the contractor. Every effort will be made to address issues such as parking and access before the actual excavation begins.

As the Society receives more information we will inform residents of the latest updates. ~

VICTORY BOULEVARD MERCHANTS STREET FESTIVAL SUNDAY, APRIL 30



Mark your calendars for Sunday April 30! The 2017 Victory Boulevard Restaurant Stroll and Street Festival will take place with over 12 participating restaurants offering their signature dishes. In addition, this year there will be a full street closure of Victory Bou-

levard from Clermont Street to Lester Street with a stage and live performers for entertainment.

The Stroll begins at 12 noon and continues until 3 p.m. Tickets are available for sale the day of the event at Alfonso's Bakery and Met Food Market. You may also purchase tickets online at

shopvictoryblvd.com/stroll. Prepaid tickets are \$15. Many businesses between Manor Road and Jewett Avenue will be participating and will be offering giveaways and entertainment.

The event is sponsored by Borough President James Oddo and NYC Councilman Steven Matteo. ~

BUNNY HOP IN WESTERLEIGH

On Saturday, April 8 the NYC Parks department and Two Moms From Westerleigh sponsored a Bunny Hop in Westerleigh Park for over 500 participants.

This was the first event for Toni Pesce and Jane Kelly, who created the Facebook group, "2 Moms From Westerleigh," with the goal of bringing back community based events to Westerleigh Park. ~



WESTERLEIGH IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS



As many of you are aware, the Society has carefully handled our financial matters over the years with extreme care. Most of the work running our civic group is done by volunteers and we rarely outsource any work. Our treasurer, Ed Malone, has nurtured our financial assets so that we can provide the best service possible for the Westerleigh community.

Over the recent past, many pressures have caused the



Board of Directors to reexamine our income flow.

Postal costs, permits, supplies and, most recently, insurance premiums, have increased the demands on our treasury. We have found our annual expenses outstripping our income from dues. Because we prudently set aside reserves for such a possibility

our operations are still continuing normally. However, we cannot keep dipping into our reserves on a sustained basis.

At our Annual Meeting in May, the Board of Directors will propose a dues increase to \$20 per year for regular membership and \$30 per year for associate membership beginning January 2018. This will be our first dues increase proposal since 2004.

The Directors wanted our members to know that the request is made out of necessity and for the long term benefit to the community. ~

COMMUNITY ALERTS!

SCAM CALLS

It has come to the Society's attention that phone solicitations from individuals claiming to represent PAL (Police Athletic League) have been made to Westerleigh residents. The Staten Island District Attorney's office states that these requests are fraudulent and residents should just hang up.

To donate to NYC PAL call 1-800-PAL-4KIDS or visit them online at <http://www.palnyc.org> ~

CAR SURFING

It's still happening. Car surfers (individuals randomly checking for open car doors) are still roaming through Westerleigh.

We reported in our last issue that police were advising everyone to remove valuables and lock their cars.

The saddest fact is that these thieves are still finding cars unlocked and valuable items left in plain sight. The Society reminds everyone to remove all valuables and lock car doors, even those kept in driveways. Better safe than sorry! ~



If you witness an episode of car surfing call 911. Many incidents are unreported to the police. Don't assume someone else called. Do it yourself!

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- * U.S. Congress, NY District 11
Dan Donovan: 718-351-1062
- * NYS Senate, District 24
Andrew Lanza: 718-984-4073
- * NYS Assembly, District 63
Michael Cusick: 718-370-1384
- * NYS Assembly , District 61
Matthew Titone: 718-442-9932
- * SI Borough President
James Oddo : 718-816-2000
- * NYC Council, District 49
Debi Rose: 718-556-7370
- * NYC Council, District 50
Steven Matteo: 718-980-1017
- * Staten Island District Attorney
Michael McMahon: 718-876-6300
- * 120th Precinct: 718-876-8500
- * 121th Precinct: 718-697-8700
- * Community Board 1: 718-981-6900
- * P.S.30: 718-442-0462
- * I.S. 51: 718-981-0502

Westerleigh Improvement Society, Inc

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Secretary—Frances Genereux



WIS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ANNUAL DUES:

Resident Membership \$10 Associate Membership \$20

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE # (OPTIONAL): _____

IF RENEWING: MEMBERSHIP # _____

(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