



# 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 2017

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Serving the Westerleigh community for 125 years



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The colors of summer are fading and the brilliant reds and yellows of fall are appearing throughout our community. Autumn is a peaceful season yet gives us a fore-taste of the winter months ahead.

Our community hosted the 10th Annual Westerleigh Folk Festival this September. Westerleigh Park overflowed with people from all over Staten Island. Many musical groups kept visitors of all ages entertained. Vendors of all types were present on the lawns of the park.

Our first civic meeting of the year was a crowded one. Several issues of concern to the community were on the agenda. Everyone is encouraged to attend our monthly meetings held the first Tuesday of each month at the Immanuel Union Church.



We are entering election season with important choices to be made for mayor, borough president and our City Council representatives. While the Westerleigh Improvement Society is non-partisan, we encourage our members to be involved in the political process.

Periodically before our business meetings, our Vice President Mark Anderson prepares a Westerleigh Talk, a presentation on some aspect of Westerleigh history or architecture. We encourage you to frequently check our website [www.wisonline.org](http://www.wisonline.org) for the dates and topics.

As always, if you feel you have an issue that you feel the Society can assist you with please contact us.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meeting begins at 8 pm  
Westerleigh Talks at 7 pm

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Immanuel Union Church

693 Jewett Avenue  
at the corner of Maine Avenue

~Everyone Welcome~

### VOTE ON ELECTION DAY! TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Polling places are open 6 AM to 9 PM. If you are not sure of your voting location you can:

- Search online for your poll site at: <http://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/where>
- Call the Voter Phone Bank at 1.866.VOTE.NYC
- E-mail your complete home address to [vote@boe.nyc.ny.us](mailto:vote@boe.nyc.ny.us) and they'll respond with your polling place location. (Enter Staten Island in the subject line.)

## WARDWELL AVENUE PROJECT UNDERWAY

The long awaited Storm and Sanitary sewer project on Wardwell Avenue and neighboring streets has begun. On Aug. 9, the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) held a Community Outreach meeting after notifying all of the homeowners along the route of the project. More than 50 residents attended and were addressed by Bob Orcinolo, the Community Construction Liaison (CCL), and by the resident engineer as well as representatives of the general contractor E.E. Cruz.

Many thoughtful and detailed questions were posed to the representatives present. The project has a time span

of 24 months, from August 2017 to August 2019. PS 30 was given special consideration so as to avoid work in the area of the school during the school year. Residents were asked to contact the CCL at (718) 487-9623 about any issues related to the project. Workmen are not the contact people for issues.

The Society will monitor the progress of the project in the coming months. Homeowners who feel that the contractor has caused property damage should contact the



*A view of the construction along Waters Avenue.*

CCL to have the issue investigated and to file a claim.

Despite the inconvenience and messy streets associated with the project, the final result will be an infrastructure that will improve drainage and sanitary sewers for a large part of Westerleigh. ☺

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## OPPOSITION TO WESTERLEIGH PARK PROJECTS

As we have reported in our newsletter, Westerleigh Park has been renovated to include new drainage capability and newly paved paths. Over the past few month new groups have been working in the park (2 Moms from Westerleigh and the Westerleigh Parks Coalition) to enhance it even more, with activities and beautification efforts.

The Department of Parks and Recreation recently assigned an activity specialist to work afternoons with children

in the park. He was very successful in getting children to become involved in organized games.

Parks also placed a portisan (a portable toilet) in the park. The unit was not universally appreciated, however, and was misused by some young people. The result was that at the end of August the unit was removed.

More controversial was the proposal to design a “natural play area” for young children

within the park. The lack of a safe recreational area for young children in the park was the reason for its suggestion. Supported by 2 Moms from Westerleigh, it was funded by Councilman Steve Matteo.

Opposition arose from area residents who feared it would become a hangout for teens. Lacking a consensus from the entire community, the funding was withdrawn. ☺

## NEW DSNY BULK COLLECTION PROGRAM

### ~NOW SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS~

The Sanitation Department has announced a new program to collect up to six large, bulky items per homeowner request. However, **IT MUST BE DONE BY APPOINTMENT.**

Bulk items – which can include, but are not limited to such things as sofas, mattresses and large wooden furniture pieces – can be collected at curbside provided the homeowner has called 311 or logged onto [nyc.gov/bulk](http://nyc.gov/bulk) to set up an appointment. The items must be able to be handled by two workers and fit into a refuse truck.

The program will NOT accommodate refrigerators, electronics or other items that are required to be recycled with special handling.

No longer is it necessary to hope that regular pickup workers may or may not be able to take large household items. The program allows for multiple appointments if more than six items are to be removed.

The program is one of the most frequently used in the city. Between July 2016 and June 2017 the DSNY received 90,000 calls requesting bulk pickups. ♪

#### **BULK ITEM DISPOSAL WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

Call 311 to schedule an appointment for bulk pick-up. Eligible items include non-recyclable items larger than 4 feet by 3 feet. Smaller, (under 4 feet by 3 feet), non-recyclable items can be put out the night before any garbage collection day.

Set your oversized waste at the curb after 4 pm the night before your pickup appointment date.

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### THANK YOU TO GARY'S LANDSCAPING

For the past few months the Westerleigh sign area on Jewett Avenue has been maintained by Gary's Landscaping. The Society truly appreciates the volunteer effort to keep our shrubbery and plantings neat and thriving. ♪

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### HAVE FUN & STAY LOCAL - STATEN ISLAND EVENT LISTINGS

When you're looking for something to do – think local. Staten Island has a vibrant art community, talented theatre companies, great musicians and dancers, and many active organizations presenting entertaining and informative programming. Many events are free or low-cost.

Where can you find these events? Unfortunately, there

is no one website or publication that lists every event, but here are a few reliable resources for island events.

#### **StatenIslandUSA.com/ events**

This site is managed by SI Borough Hall and has gotten a wonderful overhaul. It now features many major and diverse events.

#### **SILive.com/events**

This site takes a bit more searching to view events of interest. Use the search function and drop down categories for find your interests.

#### **Siparent.com/events**

This site has a diverse list of featured events, but its monthly calendar is mostly geared towards families with small children. ♪

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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

EMAIL US AT: [WIS\\_SI@YAHOO.COM](mailto:WIS_SI@YAHOO.COM)

#### OFFICERS:

President—Mike Morrell  
Vice President—Mark Anderson  
Treasurer—Ed Malone  
Secretary—Frances Genereux

#### NEWSLETTER DESIGN:

Regina Paleau  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
Lou Bergonzi



### 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