

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20TH 2022, 7:30PM

TOWN HALL MEETING HOSTED BY THE WE LOVE WHITESTONE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

GRACE CHURCH
14-15 CLINTONVILLE STREET, WHITESTONE
(USE CLINTONVILLE STREET ENTRANCE)

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- CONGRESSMAN THOMAS SUOZZI
- 109TH PRECINCT: DEPUTY INSPECTOR O'CONNELL

FOLLOWING MEETINGS IN SPRING OF 2022 (MORE DETAILS TBA ON FACEBOOK):

- WEDNESDAY, MAY 18TH 2022 AT GRACE CHURCH
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15TH 2022AT ST. LUKE'S

DUES ARE DUE! PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR WLW AND OUR COMMUNITY BY SENDING IN YOUR ANNUAL DUES FOR 2022. IT'S ONLY \$20 PER HOUSEHOLD (SENIORS \$10) AND HELPS SUPPORT COMMUNITY EVENTS, TOWN HALL MEETINGS. ETC.

PLEASE PAY ONLINE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR BY MAILING YOUR CHECKS TO: PO BOX 29, WHITESTONE, NY 11357



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TOWN HALL SCHEDULE



Town Hall Meeting

Wednesday, April 20th 7:30pm

GRACE CHURCH

14-15 Clintonville Street, Whitestone (use Clintonville Street entrance)

Guest Speakers

Congressman Thomas Suozzi

&

109th Precinct: Deputy Inspector O'Connell

Announcing the "Why We Love Whitestone" Essay Contest \$250 Scholoarship Prize for Whitestone Middle and High School Students

We are YOUR Local Civic Assocation - Serving Whitestone since 2015



We Love Whitestone is concerned with matters that affect our community. Town Hall Meetings are the ideal venue for Whitestone residents and business owners to voice their concerns and help promote positive change.

For meetings, events, membership, community notices:

www.WeLoveWhitestone.com



A Message from Our President

ALFREDO CENTOLA

We live in a world where social media dominates and has to some extent taken over socialization. We rely on Facebook and other sites for our immediate gratification of information. We listen and read soundbites and make determinations of what is or is not fact. We are a society that has taken out the meaning of truth and substitutes it with "your, my, his, her," or any version of the truth when once upon a time the truth was the truth and everything else was an opinion or a version of the truth. That said, we are fortunate to live in a community that while relying on social media for updates and information, we also reach out to our neighbors, we say hello, we acknowledge each other for good, bad or indifferent. We are a community of proud passionate people who at the end of the day, regardless of method, the objective is the same.

We live in Whitestone Queens without a doubt one of the most desired communities to live in for many different factors. Our schools, our parks, our location, location, location! We are fortunate enough to live in a community where most residents refuse to leave and their children more often than not, do not move away they look to stay. Young residents who are ready to raise their own families do whatever is within their realm to raise their families in the very community they were raised in.

Yes we have our issues. After all, as much as we are a small town community feel neighborhood, we do belong to NYC and are a small part of the largest Borough. Our civic has taken up the fight against the onslaught of helicopter and small craft noise and have had success in curtailing a large percentage of it. Our civic has taken up the fight off overdevelopment at several locations and has had success. Our civic has taken up the fight to stop the infernal bass that assaults many residents overnight causing health issues as well as attacking our quality of life. While we are still working on it, I assure you our NYPD along with a few elected representatives, are working on it.

We are fortunate enough to have incredible events within our community such as toy drives, coat drives, food drives, park clean ups, graffiti cleanups, concerts in the park, family fun day, self-defense, first aid, CPR, block watch and many many other events. This good luck can only happen because our business members, many of whom are also residents are quick to give back and sponsor our events. We are fortunate that those of you that step up and get involved give it 1110% "you", our residents and volunteers.

I will say it again, we are fortunate. Compared to other communities, we are paradise. I encourage all of you to GET UP, GET OUT AND GET INVOLVED. Every little bit helps, I know we are all busy and no one ever thinks they can dedicate any time. Believe me, you can and you would be surprised the fulfillment you get from just a little bit of involvement. I'm not saying hours and hours, remember every little bit helps so please GET UP, GET OUT, GET INVOLVED.

"GET UP, GET OUT AND GET INVOLVED."

ALFREDO CENTOLA

PRESIDENT OF THE WE LOVE WHITESTONE CIVIC ASSOCIATION





HTTP://WWW.WELOVEWHITESTONE.COM

OUR WEBSITE GOT A MAKEOVER!



If you haven not been to our website in a while, you're in for a treat- we've gotten a Makeover this year! A special thanks to Laura on the We Love Whitestone Civic Association Board for revamping our look!

N₁ E₁ I₁ G₂ H₄ B₃ O₁ R₁

We Love Whitestone's: GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD!

OUR FIRST AWARD GOES TO NEIGHBOR: JEFF ADAM BILODEAU



Most of us in Whitestone know Mr.Jeff - The Jeffrey Adam Bilodeau!

He is a great neighbor and friend to many of us. He is also a compassionate friend of all creations, especially animals and birds - He is a "Saint Francis of Whitestone!!" Given his rustic voice - He is a "Frank Sinatra of Whitestone". Given his culinary skills - Chef Jeff is a "Gordon Ramsey" of Whitestone! Jeff is a proud American who loves our country and our values. He loves our neighborhood, our community and all we do. He cares for people in unique ways!! Be it a stranded car in the middle of a highway or a homeless person in need of some care and conversation, he is there for them. He is a listening ear to many who need to be heard. He cares for our community and strives to keep things clean around our neighborhood and around neighborhood parks. He shares positive vibes through thoughtful insights, quotes, random thoughts, sunset pictures from around our parks and bridges to mention the few. On a lighter note, he has been waiting to win a mega million lottery to give it away for those who are in need. We wish him for the dream to come true!! Jeff is a man of faith and prayer. In his own words he often says," I pray and go to church not because I am perfect, just the opposite of it. I need God to help me everyday in my challenges and in my failures to grow and live in God's favor and grace." He attends Immanuel Lutheran Church and helps with many of our community outreach. His favorite bible verse: "The Lord Bless you and Keep you; Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; May the Lord give you favor and peace". (Numbers 6:24-26). He speaks that blessing to many people on a given day!

Congratulations, Jeffrey Adam Bilodeau on this well deserved honor as the FIRST recipient of We Love Whitestone's Good Neighbor Award!

- Pastor Johnson, Immanuel Lutheran Church



Veteran Spotlight

THOMAS MECIR, SR. - WRITTEN BY DORIAN MECIR

Thomas Mecir, Sr. was a proud veteran that served 4 years in the US Army, enlisting at 18 years old. He then served 4 years in the Army Reserves while working in his family butcher shop. In the 1960s he joined the FDNY where he was first a Firefighter for many years and then retired as a Fire Marshall. Tom was known around the firehouse as "Tom the Arm" for his strength and unmatched arm wrestling skills. Tom lived most of his life in Whitestone along with his wife, Josie and their children . He served his country and his city with honor. He enjoyed sailing, was a master gardener, a great chef and could fix anything. Tom lived life to the fullest....the grass was "always greener" in his own backyard and the waters were "always blue" right here where he docked his sailboat near Whitestone. He appreciated and enjoyed the simple things in life. Tom passed away in January, 2022. We remember and celebrate him for being a dedicated veteran, one of New York's FDNY bravest, a good neighbor and a great part of our Whitestone community.

Tom in his Army days pictured with "the whole nine yards" belt of ammunition and with his tank "Josie". Also pictured at the FDNY Training Academy on Randall's Island in the 1960s.



Tom was known around the firehouse as "Tom the Arm" for his strength and unmatched arm wrestling skills.





PAST TOWN HALLS



PAST EVENTS

https://www.qchron.com/editions/north/109-trains-block-watchers/article_08b06cee-11fb-5a96-8c0d-64c30da0303d.html

109 trains Block Watchers

Feb 24, 2022



Photo by Al Centola

We Love Whitestone Civic Association teamed up with officers from the 109th Precinct of the New York Police Department for the organization's annual Block Watcher Training Course on Saturday, Feb. 19 at St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church.

During the two-hour course, roughly 25 attendees, some of whom — including Deborah Cvirko, second from left, and Regina Broad, right, are seen above with officers Ares Huang, center left, and Mark Burger — learned how to be better witnesses and how to report incidents on a 911 call.

Those certified are given an ID number, which they can give to a 911 operator, indicating that they have been trained to know what to look for.

"This is a great opportunity to learn what to look for and how to be a vigilant observer," WLWCA president and founding member Al Centola told the Chronicle.

- Sophie Krichevsky

QueensChronicle.com







PAST EVENTS

Self Defense Training

FIERCE DRAGON MARTIAL ARTS PRESENTED BY WLW

We Love Whitestone and Fierce Dragon Martial Arts did it again. On a Saturday afternoon Master Kimmel of Fierce dragon held a self defense training for members of the community. It was a packed house. We Love Whitestone has been teaming up with Fierce Dragon to offer these sessions for several years along with other events within the community.

"Fierce Dragon is one of many community businesses that give back to our community. They run a summer camp that is the best in the Borough. They're martial arts training is a testament to the true purpose of martial arts. We Love Whitestone and the entire community is blessed to have them as business partners and

neighbors."





LOCAL NOTICES & BULLETINS

SAFE Disposal Events

SOLVENTS | AUTOMOTIVE | FLAMMABLE | ELECTRONICS

Get rid of your harmful household products safely.

Staten Island

Saturday, May 7

10am-4pm (rain or shine)

Midland Beach Parking Lot

Father Capodanno Boulevard & Hunter Avenue Cars approach from Slater Boulevard

NEW! Registration Required on.nyc.gov/SAFE-SI

Bronx

Saturday, May 14

10am-4pm (rain or shine)

Orchard Beach Parking Lot

Cars follow Park Drive to the end

NEW: Registration Required on.nyc.gov/SAFE-BX

Manhattan

Sunday, June 5

10am-4pm (rain or shine)

Columbia University/Teachers College

W 120 Street between Broadway & Amsterdam Avenue Cars approach from Seminary Row down Amsterdam Avenue Walk-in area available for residents taking public transportation

NEW: Registration Required on.nyc.gov/SAFE-MN

Queens

Saturday, June 11

10am-4pm (rain or shine)

Astoria Park Parking Lot

Hoyt Avenue and 19th Street

Cars enter from Ditmars Boulevard onto 21st Street

Walk-in area available for residents taking public transportation

NEW! Registration Required on.nyc.gov/SAFE-QNS

Brooklyn

Sunday, June 19

10am-4pm (rain or shine)

Brooklyn Cruise Terminal

Clinton Wharf & Ferris Street

Cars approach from Van Brunt Street and Hamilton Avenue down Bowne Street to Clinton Wharf

NEW Registration Required on.nyc.gov/SAFE-BK

For updates as more events are scheduled and to find your nearest DSNY Household Special Waste Drop-Off Site, visit nyc.gov/safedisposal.

nyc.gov/safedisposal | call 311 ☑ Y ☑ NYCsanitation • NYCzerowaste #SAFEdisposal





THIS IS WE LOVE WHITESTONE

LOCAL NOTICES & BULLETINS

UPDATE ON GRAFFITI

THANK YOU CARL CURTO AND HIS CREW. GETTING RID OF GRAFFITI





DON'T LET YOUR VEHICLE BECOME AN EASY TARGET FOR CRIMINALS. BY FOLLOWING THESE HELPFUL TIPS YOU MAY PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE FROM THEFT:

- -REMOVE all valuables from your vehicle.
- -NEVER leave a spare key inside of your vehicle.
- -If possible park in WELL LIT areas. More than half of vehicle breaks occur overnight.
- -NEVER leave your vehicle running, even for a few seconds.
- -Register your vehicle with <u>FREE</u> programs offered by The
- NYPD to help deter thieves (VIN Etching may save you \$\$\$).
- -An activated ALARM acts as a great deterrent.



For more information or to schedule a VIN etch, call P.O Boyle 718-279-5281







Patrol Borough Queens North Is Hosting A





Dress and Suit Drive

Saturday, April 30th, 2022 11am to 5pm

> Bryant High School 48-10 31st Ave Long Island City, NY

Transportation to Bryant H.S. is available via Subway: Queens Local R or M train to 46 Street or Bus: Q18 Bus to 54th St/ 31st Ave

You can drop off any donations to the 104 pct,108 pct,109 pct,110 pct,111 pct, 112 pct, 114 pct or 115 pct from:

NOW TO APRIL 27TH

Please donate all gently used formal dresses, suits, shirts, belts and shoes to a local High School Senior to give them a prom to remember!





Any questions, contact Det. Nugent or P.O. Roper at 718-520-8839







VIN Etching

FREE

Help protect your vehicle from theft by having your vehicle's Vehicle Identification Number etched on all of its windows. This FREE program is a strong deterrent to thieves.





TIPS FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

What Can I Do?



Carry purses or briefcases in a manner that will allow you to let go.



Release

If someone attempts to snatch your pocket book, let go of it, especially if there is a weapon involved.



Long Strap

If there is a long strap, wrap it around the bag.



Carry your keys on your person separate from your identification.



Be particularly aware of your purse/wallet in crowded situations. such as rush-hour trains and

buses.

Purse



Straps placed across your shoulder, around your neck or wrapped around your waist have caused injuries because women could not free themselves during a purse snatch.



2345678NUCAVN19

Always be aware of your surroundings and carry your pocketbook clasp toward you, close to your body, tucked in the bend of your elbow as if it were a football.



Bumps

If you are jostled in a crowd, be aware that a pickpocket might be responsible.





Cash & Cards

Divide money between your purse/wallet and pockets.

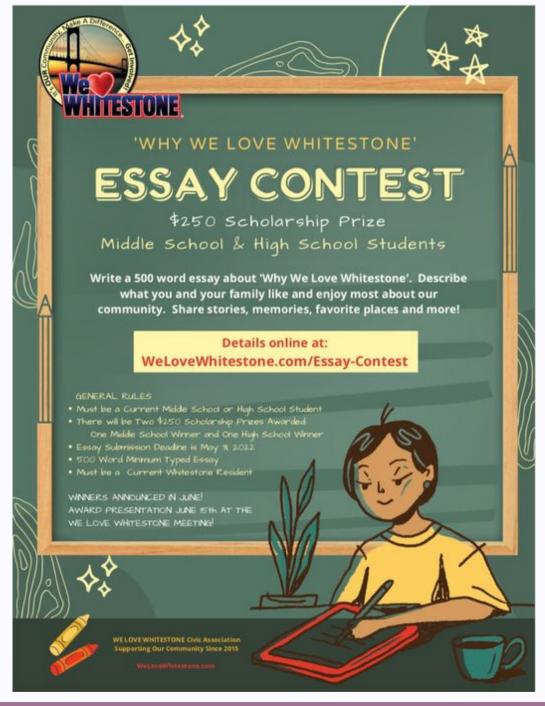


CALENDAR OF EVENTS





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Topic of Discussion



How the merchants can work together to rebuild and regain a more beautiful Whitestone.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

7:30 PM

LOCATION:

HOLY CROSS GREEK CHURCH

USE THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



SPEAKER:

Vickie Paladino

Councilmember - District 19



For more details, contact us:

WhitestoneMerchants@yahoo.com District19@council.nyc.gov WhitestoneMerchants.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Events

CHECK WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, NEWSLETTERS, & EMAIL FOR FUTURE UPDATES

- Save the Dates The Summer Concert Series is coming back for 2022!
 Below are the following tentative dates, more details to be announced soon!
 - o July 16th 2022
 - o July 23rd 2022
 - o August 17th 2022
 - September 24th 2022

More to be announced!



NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Daniel B. Levitt, D.D.S., F.A.G.D. Rebecca E. Geller, D.D.S.

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www.whitestonefamilydentist.com













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