

VOL. 2 ISSUE 3 • SPRING 2022

WE LOVE WHITESTONE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WLW CIVIC ASSOCIATION



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Friends of Francis Lewis Park and We Love Whitestone PRESENT

SUMMER CONCERTS AT FRANCIS LEWIS PARK

SATURDAY JUL 16 7:00 PM **Radio Daze** The Best 80's Party Band

SATURDAY JUL 23 7:00 PM **Yesterday And Today**

SATURDAY AUG 27 7:00 PM **THE PROJEKT**

SATURDAY SEP 24 7:00 PM **ANGELO VENUTO**

LOCATED AT 3RD AVENUE & 147TH STREET - WHITESTONE
Bring Lawn Chairs and Blankets
Thank You to NYC Parks Dept. & Partnerships for Parks for their generous support

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THIS ISSUE:

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT
PAGE 02

VETERAN SPOTLIGHT
PAGE 03

PAST TOWN HALLS
PAGE 04

WLW SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS
PAGE 06

PAST EVENTS
PAGE 14

LOCAL NOTICES & BULLETINS
PAGE 16

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
PAGE 18

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS
PAGE 19

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





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





THIS IS WE LOVE WHITESTONE

VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

Submariner Michael Bauernfeind

“SILENT SERVICE”



When people hear that I spent four years from 2000 to 2004 as a communications electronics technician on a U.S. Navy submarine, they always ask if it was claustrophobic and depressing living under water. Honestly, we were too busy to even think about that. Submarine time is an 18-hour day measured in six-hour intervals. You spend six hours doing your job. With the remainder, you study, get free time, do drills, and clean. You sleep and then do it all over again.

Subs can get very dirty, so you spend a lot of time cleaning, which helps with fire prevention and overall health and safety. During a six month deployment we were usually away under water for about 30 or 40 days at a time, before resurfacing in a port.

The reason I chose a sub, in addition to my dad serving on one in Vietnam, was because it is a smaller community. There are about 100 to 150 sailors on a Los Angeles class sub, a much smaller community than you'd find on an aircraft carrier with 5,000 people or more. I knew I'd feel lost on an enormous ship and wanted a tight-knit group where I could make a name for myself.

After basic training, I attended “A” school in Connecticut and during that time I met my future wife and was introduced to her family and home in Whitestone, New York. I was stationed in San Diego, California and assigned to the USS Portsmouth, SSN 707. At the end of my service in 2004, part of my role was to work on decommissioning the sub. I made many friends and enjoyed seeing the local sights with them when in port. I was fortunate enough to visit Japan, Guam, Australia, South Korea, Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii among others during my enlistment.

One of the biggest lessons on the sub was learning to work with all kinds of personalities. You can't run or hide from difficult people. This taught me patience and calmness, something that serves me well now in my work with patients at NYU Langone. For instance, my demeanor helps alleviate patients' fears and anxiety when they're sick, unhappy, or frustrated by an insurance issue.

After leaving the Navy, I worked in California for 8 years, but none of my jobs were fulfilling career roles. I then decided to go to college using my GI bill to assist. I could maximize my military educational stipend at a New York college, and since we had family here, I relocated to Whitestone.

Presently I work in Health Care Administration, something I never thought I'd would be doing. However, the military prepared me well for this job, as well as for life's twists and turns.

My military experience has helped me excel in patient relations. I listen and try to understand people which also helps me in my daily life around Whitestone as there are so many wonderful people within this community. You're never going to please everyone, but you can try, and I am always amazed by what you can learn from others.

Serving is what I do. You wouldn't find me in this job or position if I didn't want to help patients and our local community. I always give 100 percent of myself, and encourage others to do the same. I am grateful to the military for allowing me the opportunity to attain my B.S. degree and for all the valuable life lessons.

Although I did not grow up here in Whitestone, I am proud to call it my home. I chose to serve on a sub because I preferred the close - knit community and it's the same way I view Whitestone. There is the same sense of comfort here as I had in those days with the Navy. I enjoy the sense of close community and friendly neighbors with all the benefits of a 'big city'.

THIS IS WE LOVE WHITESTONE

PAST TOWN HALLS

June 15th 2022

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE MEETING

THANKS TO THE WONDERFUL YOUNG ADULTS THAT CAME TO RECEIVE YOUR ESSAY PRIZES. YOUR WORDS ARE AN INSPIRATION AND A TESTAMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY.

THANKS TO DI HALL OF THE NYPD 109TH PRECINCT FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY. YOUR OFFICERS ARE APPRECIATED.

THANK YOU ASSEMBYMAN ROSENTHAL.

THANK YOU MR. SCHROEDER FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN OUR ESSAY CONTEST.

THANKS TO ALI FADIL AND VITTORIO FOR YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT THE BUS REROUTES.

THANKS TO ALL THAT ATTENDED AND ASKED THE QUESTIONS. YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VITAL

- Alfredo Centola, WLW President





THIS IS WE LOVE WHITESTONE

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Aiden Diamond
MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNER

"Why We Love Whitestone"

The town of Whitestone is a gem of a community located in the northernmost part of the borough of Queens. The community is very diverse and several different places of worship can be seen when walking through the neighborhood. Also, you can find almost every type of food from pizza at Café Rustico, chicken kebabs at Tasty Grill, gelato at Tutto Calcio, and of course great heroes at Cherry Valley Deli. These are some of my favorite places to eat. It is a safe place to live with friendly people at every corner and having lived here my whole life, I am very proud to call Whitestone home. Let's take a little tour of my community, come join me!

The schools in Whitestone are great and I think it is pretty cool that I attended the same elementary school (P.S. 193 Alfred J. Kennedy) and Middle School (J.H.S. 194 William H. Carr) that my father did. My family has lived here for over sixty years, and this has helped me to better understand the history and culture associated with Whitestone. When we attend mass at St. Luke church on Clintonville Street, my family likes to remind me that this was where my grandparents and parents were married and also where I was baptized. I was very interested to discover that the church is over 150 years old and is one of the most recognizable landmarks within our community. No matter what your faith, it is definitely a great place to visit to appreciate the history and architecture.

There are so many outdoor activities to do in Whitestone and many beautiful parks that people from all over come to visit. If you like bridges and the water, then taking a walk through Francis Lewis Park to see the Whitestone Bridge or Little Bay Park to see the Throgs Neck Bridge would be a good choice for you. The parks are beautiful with a lot of grass and bicycle tracks that run along the water with amazing views of the bridges. There is even a bocce ball court that is always alive with energy and fun to watch, even though I never can figure out what is going on. I love to ride my bike or scooter with my friends along the paths and take in the fresh air and amazing scenery. The sunsets in Whitestone are also amazing to see.

One of my favorite events to take part in each year is the annual Memorial Day Parade. This is a great way to show your Whitestone pride and keep the tradition of supporting our veterans. The brave members of the 109th Precinct always do a great job keeping the event organized and safe. The parade runs right through the heart of our town and the attendance is high, with red, white, and blue flags flying as far as the eyes can see. One year, I marched in the parade with my karate friends at Fierce Dragon even though it was raining pretty hard. We all had umbrellas and ponchos and I feel like it was still as crowded as if it were a beautiful sunny day. I had a great time representing my community with my friends and family, a memory I will never forget.

There are so many reasons why we love Whitestone so much and I am happy that I was able to take you on this short virtual tour. Next time, I suggest that you take a ride through our town to experience the sites, food, and amazing people for yourself!

THIS IS WE LOVE WHITESTONE

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Hannah Maher
HIGH SCHOOL WINNER

My name is Hannah Maher, I'm a 9th grade student at Holy Cross High School. My family has lived in Whitestone the past 20 years, so this is the only place I have lived. There are so many things I like about Whitestone, but one that jumps out at me is how many opportunities there are to get involved in the community.

Ever since I joined the girl scouts 8 years ago, I have assisted with many cleanups along the beautiful shores of Whitestone. I am an avid biker, who enjoys the bike path along the Cross Island, and it makes me proud to see that I, along with other Whitestone residents help beautify this path. I have also become very active with "Friends Of Francis Lewis Park" who are committed to keeping our parks clean. The organization's integral leader, Dorian Mecir, has collaborated with me in organizing a shoreline cleanup, with the youth ministry and student council of Holy Cross HS. Along with other Whitestone families and volunteers, we picked up 35 bags of trash. Dorian also contacted local sponsors to supply us with the necessary tools. The shoreline cleanup was a success, and this event reminded me of how considerate and diligent the members of Whitestone are.

I also appreciate the diversity in Whitestone. When I am jogging along the Cross Island path, or inside Fort Totten, I have a full appreciation of this community's diversity. This diversity is also evident in our business owners, residents and students. My school, Holy Cross, is incredibly diverse. Which is a sign that so many Queens residents want to be a part of Whitestone.

Another thing I love about Whitestone is that it is a very caring community. I have participated in countless food drives, coat drives, fundraisers and projects. Each time, I can always count on my fellow neighbors to participate and show how much they care. When I was working on my bronze award for girl scouts, I was collecting shoes to be donated to a company called Teva Land. They sell the shoes to raise money for the protection of animals. I collected over 500 pair of shoes from Whitestone residents. Now that I am preparing to earn my Gold Award, I reached out to community leaders Alfredo Centola and Dorian Mecir. After explaining my project, both immediately said yes, and we will now be collaborating on a bike safety project within Whitestone. This is just another example of why I love this town.

A very personal memory I have in Whitestone was going to story time with Ms. Susan, the children's librarian at the Whitestone Library. During my childhood, I would always attend her back-to-school events, participate in reading competitions, and watch her reading achievement challenge rewards. Ms. Susan brought the joy of reading to the children of Whitestone through a variety of fun events. I remember when she sat in a pool of spaghetti, held a giant snake and let all the kids spray her with silly string at the end of the summer. Mrs. Susan was an absolute gem to the community, and we were so honored to have had her as a local librarian.

A final example of how close Whitestone is, would be the annual Family Fun Day events at Francis Lewis Park, and the Trunk or Treats in the Harpell parking lot. Unfortunately, due to Covid, the family fun days were suspended, but I have vivid memories of rock climbing, pony rides and carnival games. All of which was enjoyed by the entire community, and made possible by the work of We Love Whitestone, and the 109th precinct.

We are so fortunate to have these events due to the hardworking members of our community. Whitestone residents have so much to be grateful for. We have an amazingly safe neighborhood thanks to the 109th precinct. We have beautiful parks, with residents who value them. We have a civic group that works endlessly to ensure our community is well informed, and fun. I don't know where my life will end up as I grow into adulthood, but I am very thankful to have enjoyed the community feel, and pride of Whitestone.

THIS IS WE LOVE WHITESTONE

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Olivia Farrell

HIGH SCHOOL WINNER, 2ND PLACE

Why I Love Whitestone

By Olivia Farrell

9th Grader, Archbishop Molloy High School

I love Whitestone because of the amazing people in it who make it such a great place to live. I love being able to walk to my friends' houses and just spend time with them going to Ralph's Italian Ices or going to the park to play basketball. I like walking in the village and seeing people I know and being able to strike up a conversation.

Everybody in our community is so friendly and cares about making it a safe and pleasant place to live. I love being able to walk my dog to Francis Lewis Park and go to events there for Friends of Francis Lewis Park, like a park clean-up, Earth Day celebration, or breast cancer awareness event. I also like walking to the park at night to look at the sunset with the bridge because it is always so pretty.

I love all the restaurants that we have throughout Whitestone. My favorite is Taco Azul. I go there almost every week with my friends to get a vegetable burrito and some chips and guacamole. One of my other favorites is Casa Asia because of their great sushi. We also have so many great pizza places and just little restaurants in general!

Another great place to get food is from Mimi's Empanadas. My family and I get empanadas from her every week and are always so excited to try them. I am very lucky to have Cafe Rustico on my block so that I can go get pizza whenever I want. I love how I can walk everywhere with my friends whether it's to their houses or to go eat.

Growing up in Whitestone has been so terrific because of the great schools we have too like PS 79 where I had a fantastic elementary school experience and JHS185 where I was able to mature and learn how to be a good student. Another good thing about Whitestone is the We Love Whitestone Facebook page where all of the residents are able to help each other out: whether it's finding a good plumber or having questions about something new coming to Whitestone, everyone is always helping each other.

Another thing I like about Whitestone is that I was able to help out at a food pantry last year and make a difference in my community. There are always opportunities here in Whitestone to help people, and everybody is always participating in it which makes this community such a good place to live. I also love being in Whitestone because of my church Grace Church where I've also had other opportunities to make a difference here in Whitestone through food drives, helping with the thrift shop and other initiatives.

In the summer I like going to Boosters Beach with my friends or going to the park and running in sprinklers, getting ice cream from the ice cream truck that's always around, or just going to one of my friends' pools in their backyard.

I also love all the events that take place like the Christmas tree lighting or all of the fairs that happen where you can go on rides or get really good fried food. Overall Whitestone has been such an amazing place to grow up in and experience living in. The reason that it is so nice to live here is because of all the people that work so hard to keep it a nice and safe community.

THIS IS WE LOVE WHITESTONE

SCHOLARSHIP HONORABLE MENTION



Fallon O'Brien
HONORABLE MENTION

Why I Love Whitestone

Whitestone is not just an address to me. It truly is a community. What I am most enthralled with is that it is such a diverse community. I am an Irish American and my family and I are very connected to our culture. This strong connection and love of my own culture is what I believe leads me to appreciate and love other cultures. Whitestone is unlike many other places because on a daily basis I am able to learn and appreciate other cultures first hand, not just from reading about them or googling online. My community of neighbors and friends in Whitestone has exposed me to rich culture, amazing food, and a menagerie of memories of different customs I have been able to witness and even at times partake in.

My family and I are members of many Irish Organizations. One of the most important to me is the Whitestone Division of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. It is an Irish Catholic organization that preserves Irish culture and upholds the beliefs of the Church. My mother has been on the Board since before I was born. Ever since I can remember I attended meetings and events with my family. I am very connected to all the members. They treat me like I am their family. Many of them have mentored me and I have learned so much from doing service and volunteering with this amazing group of women who do so much for the Whitestone community, the Irish Community and people in need. I have been given the title of the youngest member. I am a World Champion Irish Dancer and travel the world for competitions. This has exposed me to many places and I can truly say no other place is quite like Whitestone. In most places you have to travel in order to be able to sample different cuisines, but in Whitestone we are so

blessed to be able to walk around town and have some of the world's best Italian, Greek, Israeli, Chinese, Mexican and Japanese restaurants.

When I walk into Il Nocello I am treated like I am one of the owner's children. When I order any meal I am transported to Italy instantly, with one bite. The friendly staff at Tasty Grill is always so patient with me as I ask questions about the menu, since I like to try something new all the time. Nana Good Eats has such fresh food I love to share it with my Uncle who is Israeli. New Hong Kong Chinese Restaurant knows what I want before I even order it as it is a special order. Taco Azul is always a fun night out and we always know we will run into our friends there. Casa Asia is the perfect family owned business that always treats every customer with respect all while serving amazing sushi!

As important as food is to our community, it is the people that make Whitestone such a special place. People of all nationalities are my best friends. I am very lucky that I have been exposed to so many different families in the community since I started my schooling at Holy Trinity until they closed then graduated from PS 193. I have also met so many wonderful friends and teachers through my dance school, The Dance Project of Whitestone. We share our cultures through dance which is such a wonderful way to spread art and learn about each other.

My best friends are Greek, Italian, African American, Romanian, Jewish Chinese, Korean, and Latino. I am grateful for their friendship and love. I am also grateful to share their customs through celebrations like Bar Mitzvahs, quinceaneras, and holidays. I truly believe if I did not live in Whitestone I would not have as much knowledge about the nations of the world and all the wonderful people who hail from those countries. I live in New York City, which is known as the greatest City in the world. However I believe that neighborhoods like Whitestone, where neighbors care about each other is what makes this City great!

PAST EVENTS

NYPD 109th Precinct

"I WAS AT WE LOVE WHITESTONE CIVIC MEETING TONIGHT. I INTRODUCED MYSELF TO OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND ALSO SPOKE ABOUT CRIME STATISTICS AND QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES IN THE AREA."



PAST EVENTS

Mother Karen's Installation

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF WHITESTONE

14-15 Clintonville St, Queens, NY 11357

About this Service

The Institution of a New Rector



This evening, the Rev. Karen F. Sherrill will be installed as the twenty-second rector of Grace Episcopal Church. The service is from The Book of Common Prayer, during which Mother Sherrill will be presented with symbols of the office including: a vessel of water representing baptism, bread and wine, representing blessing and breaking bread together, and oil for healing.

Before coming to Grace Church, Mother Sherrill served parishes in the dioceses of Upper South Carolina, West Virginia, and most recently Southern Ohio, as Priest-in-Charge at Holy Trinity in Cincinnati. In her time as a priest, she has also served dioceses on the Commission on Ministry, the Bishop's Disciplinary Committee, Spiritual Director for Vocaré, and Cursillo; and served as chaplain for Spartanburg Regional Health System, the Cincinnati Police Department and the Seaman's Church Institute. Mother Sherrill hails from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Arts Management from East Carolina University, and an M.Div. from The General Theological Seminary. She is married to the Rev. George Sherrill, Priest-in-Charge, Trinity Church, Roslyn, New York and they have a blended family with one married daughter, Austin A. Neal (Wesley) of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and three sons, George, a 2022 graduate of Western Carolina University, Henry, an airman in the U.S. Air Force, and Iain, a middle schooler in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

LOCAL NOTICES & BULLETINS

NYPD 109th Precinct

WHILE PERFORMING A DIRECTED PATROL AT WHITESTONE PLAYGROUND, YCO'S OBSERVED A GROUP OF KIDS LIGHTING UP FIREWORKS IN THE PARK. UPON ATTEMPTING TO APPROACH SAID KIDS, THEY FLED ON FOOT, LEAVING BEHIND THEIR STOCK OF FIREWORKS.



There has been a spike of catalytic converter thefts throughout the city.

It only takes a MINUTE for a criminal, to crawl underneath your vehicle and remove your property which they QUICKLY sell for cash.

If possible, have your converter welded on.

If you see something suspicious **CALL 911**



NYPD



Crime**PREVENTION**

Vehicle Theft.

Safeguard your vehicle..

Vehicles are stolen for a variety of reasons, including theft for parts, insurance fraud, retagging, exporting, and joy riding. To help prevent the theft and damage to your vehicle, we suggest the following:

What Can I Do?



Lock

Always lock and secure your vehicle. Always activate your alarm every time you leave your vehicle. Consider locking lug nuts to deter rim theft.



Keys

Never leave the keys in the ignition when you exit the vehicle -- even for a minute!



Property

Never leave property in your vehicle. Items such as loose change, shopping bags, GPS, cell phones, laptops, tablets and the charging chords are targeted by thieves.



Parking

Park in high traffic or well lit areas, when possible.



Report It.

Contact your local precinct crime prevention officer or visit our website at www.nyc.gov/nypd for more information on the programs we offer.



Enroll

Enroll in NYPD anti-theft programs such as VIN Etching, Operation ID and Combat Auto Theft.

NYPD

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WE LOVE WHITESTONE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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