

QUARTER 1  
JANUARY 2023



WE

LOVE

WHITESTONE

NEWSLETTER



QUARTER ONE



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"GET UP, GET OUT  
AND GET INVOLVED."

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## *President's Message*



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.

**Alfredo**  
President of WJW  
**Centola**

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## ***President's Message Cont.***



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 of 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 110% "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.

**Alfredo**  
President of **WLW**  
**Centola**

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*Trunk-or-Treat*

**2022 WLW Trunk-or-Treat  
Photos: Dominick Totino**



Whitestone Merchants Association and We Love Whitestone Presented:



Photos by Dominick Totino

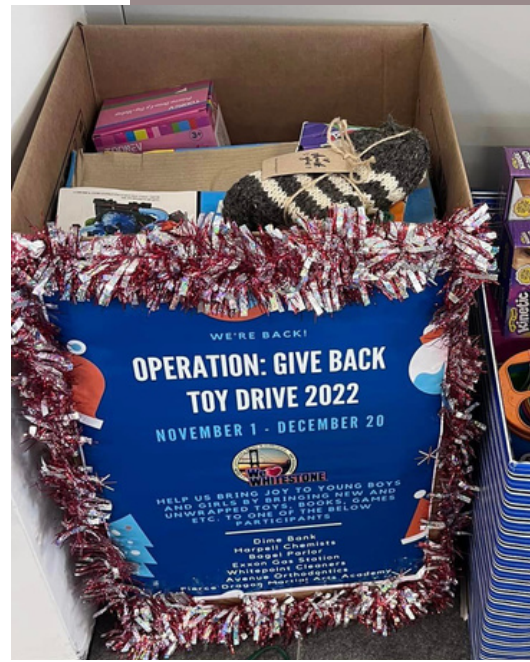
# Holiday Tree Lighting



A message from  
Arianna Sorrento

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# ***Operation: Give Back Toy Drive***



Hi Everyone!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays everyone!

I wanted to provide you with a final update on Operation: Give Back Toy Drive. We had over 2,000 toys donated and was able to donate to 5 different charities, churches and orphanages.

Special thank you to my family who helped me immensely with this toy drive.

Of course, thank you to our local merchants: Harpell Pharmacy, Bagel Parlor, Exxon Gas Station, Whitepoint Cleaners, Dime Bank, Avenue Orthodontist, Vicky Paladino, Key Food and Fierce Dragon Martial Arts for allowing us to place a donation box in your stores! Also thank you to Bayside Little League and ReBar for donating their toys to our drive!

And thank you to Alfredo Centola for partnering with and help me turn this into a continued major success!

Most of all, I wanted to personally thank all donors for your support. You don't understand the impact of your donations on these children. This is because of you all and I can't ever thank you enough. I am wishing you all a happy, safe, healthy & fun New Year! See you again next year!!

Sincerely,

Arianna Sorrento + Alfredo Centola

Donations were made to the following charities, churches & orphanages:

- Ronald McDonald House
- Toys of Hope
- Little Flowers Orphanage
- Bridge to Life Foundation (x2)
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

***Arianna Sorrento***  
Operation: Give Back Toy Drive

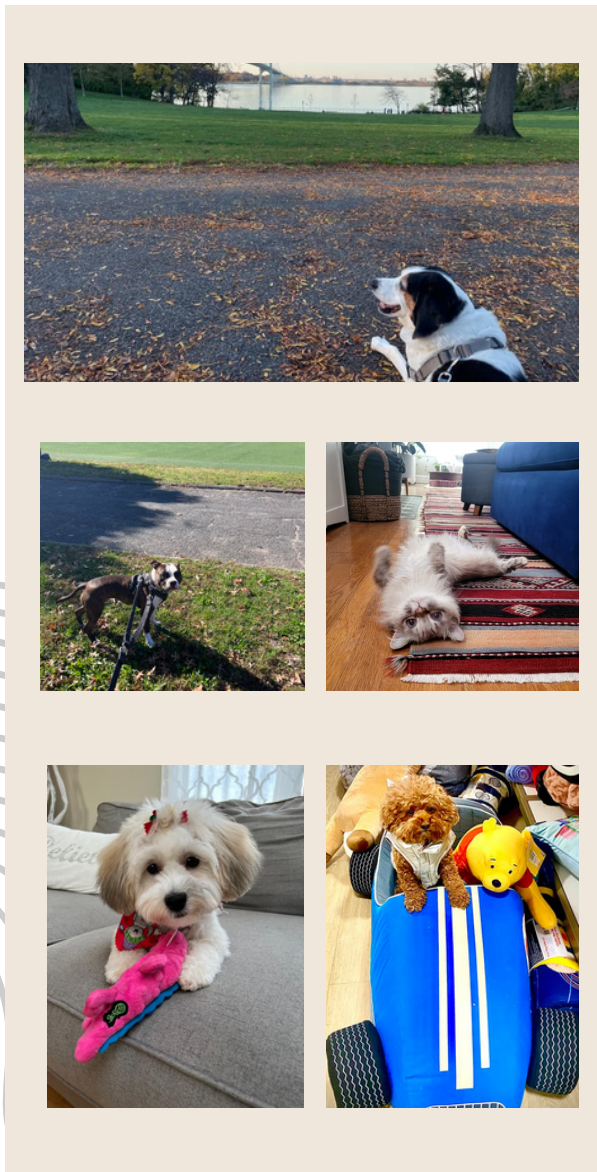
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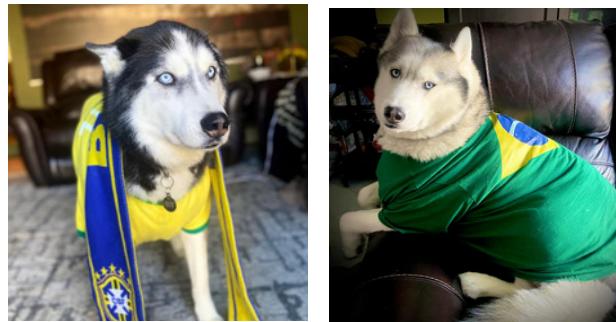
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# *Pets of Whitestone*



Thank you to all who sent photos





# Block Watcher Program: Police & Community Working



*TOGETHER*



**CRIMINAL DESCRIPTION SHEET**

Physical Description

SEX \_\_\_\_\_

HAIR \_\_\_\_\_

COLOR - EYEGLASSES \_\_\_\_\_  
(NORMAL - DROOPY)

SCARS, MARKS, TATTOOS \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Escape \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

HAT \_\_\_\_\_  
COLOR - STYLE \_\_\_\_\_

HAIR \_\_\_\_\_  
COLOR - CUT \_\_\_\_\_

BEARD or MUSTACHE  
SIDEBURNS \_\_\_\_\_

SHIRT \_\_\_\_\_

NECKTIE \_\_\_\_\_

JACKET  
OR  
COAT \_\_\_\_\_  
COLOR \_\_\_\_\_

WEAPON \_\_\_\_\_

RIGHT  
OR  
LEFT  
HANDED \_\_\_\_\_

TROUSERS \_\_\_\_\_

SHOES \_\_\_\_\_  
SNEAKERS \_\_\_\_\_

# Dominick Totino Good Neighbor Award



I'm a first generation Italian. We lived in Corona when I was born in 1958 and moved to Whitestone in 1961. I went to St. Luke's, then onto Holy Cross HS. It was suggested by my computer teacher at Cross that I should look into a computer career and was placed at Lehman College to begin my studies as a computer science engineer major. After a year or two, I felt it wasn't for me and switched to being a Math major just so I could graduate and begin the transition of taking over my dad's landscape contracting business with my twin brother.

I had bought a camera, a Canon AE-1, because I hated the crappy pics my mom took over the holidays, but I had no clue of what I was doing. At Lehman, part of my course studies was to take art electives. I took painting, drawing, art history, and figured it a good idea to take photography 101 so I might be able to learn how to use my new camera. I eventually got the hang of what all the numbers on the camera meant and after that epiphany I quickly started falling in love with the artform.

My professor saw something in me and nurtured me over the next few years. He got me my first major photo assignment, while I was still a student, working on book project for another Lehman professor. He was doing a book on Woodlawn Cemetery and asked my teacher's advice on how to get a photographer to do the accompanying thumbnails for the bios of the famous people buried there. My teacher, David, went and grabbed me, introduced me to the other professor and my photo career was born. I felt I was WAY over my head with this project, but David had more confidence in me than I had in myself. The book took 2 years to complete and Woodlawn hired me on to do all their PR/Advertising photos. I knew at that point that no matter what I did in this life, it HAD to involve my camera. From there I was hired as a lightman for a photo studio to help shoot weddings. Eventually, the studio started hiring me out to shoot their weddings. I continued to be a wedding photographer for about the first 10 years of my career. I had jobs working in photo stores during the week, but went out on my own in 1990.

I started picking up family shoots and building up a local following.

In the winter of 1991, I was introduced to Rae by virtue of a blind date. As soon as my eyes saw her, I KNEW she was the one! We got engaged the following year and married in the spring of 1993.

In 1997 I got a call from the Queens Borough President's Office to see if I was interested in putting in a bid to become the office's photographer. I submitted my proposal, went through several interviews and finally, the current BP, Claire Shulman asked me into her office and personally asked me to be their official photographer. That was one of the biggest breaks of my career. From there, over the next 17 years, I networked myself throughout the entire borough. I picked up countless clients. I left the BP office in the fall of 2014. All the connections I made during those 17 years are my clients today, and MANY more followed.

It is amazing to me of where my camera has taken me in the 40+ years. I have photographed Met games, I've been the photographer for the NYC St Patrick's Day Parade for 20 years, I've photographed the NY Auto Show for over 10 years, I have shot conferences all over the country, had an assignment in Russia, did underwater photography, music performances, US Open Tennis, and so much more.

I also do events for my alma mater, Holy Cross HS, as well as for Queens College.

I have 2 great kids, Joey & David, who make me proud everyday with their successful careers. My wife of nearly 30 years, Rae, is a retire schoolteacher. We enjoy cooking and traveling as often as we can.

Photography has given me a life I could have never imagined and the people of Whitestone, and surrounding communities, have supported me throughout my career and I love helping out with community events as much as I can.



The Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) for Operating Engineers, Local Union 15, will be recruiting apprentices in March. The New York State Department of Labor announced on Monday that the recruiting period will be between March 6 and March 17, 2023 for five operating engineer (heavy equipment) apprentices. A form will be available online at <http://local15recruitment.org> -- Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., during the recruitment period -- to enter a lottery drawing to receive an application. Only one form can be submitted per person. Applicants who do not have computer access are recommended to visit their local library. Local Union 15 will randomly select 50 individuals from the lottery on March 22, 2023 at 10 a.m. Submitting the form does not guarantee receiving an application. The lottery drawing will take place at the south end of Lefferts Boulevard at JFK Airport in Queens. All applications must be completed and submitted to Operating Engineers, Local Union 15 by April 5, 2023. Eligible applicants must: Be at least 18 years old. Must provide proof of age at the time of enrollment in apprenticeship. Have a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma (such as TASC or GED). Must submit proof with the complete application. Be able to legally work in the United States. Have a valid driver's license to operate company vehicles. Provide DD-214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), if applicable, after selection and prior to enrollment in apprenticeship. Be able to perform tasks involving coordination, motor skills and dexterity. Have reliable means of transportation to job sites and related instruction. Pass a drug screening, at the expense of the sponsor, after selection and prior to enrollment in apprenticeship. Pass a physical exam at the expense of the sponsor, after selection and prior to enrollment in apprenticeship. Pass an aptitude test administered by the Operating Engineers, Local Union 15 Training Center. Sign an affidavit stating they are physically capable of performing the essential functions of the apprenticeship without posing a threat to the health or safety of others, which may include: Working with hand and power tools. Climbing up onto and down from heavy equipment. Exposure to loud noise, hazardous machinery, hazardous voltages and respiratory irritants. Prolonged standing, climbing, walking, repeated squatting, stretching and bending. Working indoors and outdoors in extreme temperatures and weather conditions. Working in confined areas where movement is greatly limited. Lifting and moving heavy supplies and equipment. Working at heights, including bridges, scaffolding, ladders, etc. For more information, applicants should contact Operating Engineers, Local Union #15 at (718) 835-0400. Additional job search assistance can be obtained at your local New York State Department of Labor Career Center (see: [dol.ny.gov/career-centers](http://dol.ny.gov/career-centers)). Apprentice programs registered with the Department of Labor must meet standards established by the commissioner. Under state law, sponsors of programs cannot discriminate against applicants because of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, disability or marital status. Women and minorities are encouraged to submit applications for apprenticeship programs. Sponsors of programs are required to adopt affirmative action plans for the recruitment of women and minorities.

Stopping  
by  
Woods  
on a  
Snowy  
Evening



By Robert  
Frost

*Whose woods these  
are I think I know.  
His house is in the  
village though;  
He will not see me  
stopping here  
To watch his woods  
fill up with snow.*

*My little horse must  
think it queer  
To stop without a  
farmhouse near  
Between the woods  
and frozen lake  
The darkest evening  
of the year.*

*He gives his harness bells  
a shake  
To ask if there is some  
mistake.  
The only other sound's  
the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy  
flake.*

*The woods are lovely,  
dark and deep,  
But I have promises to  
keep,  
And miles to go before I  
sleep,  
And miles to go before I  
sleep.*



# Winter Word Search

S H B W L W N O R T U W M S D  
O N S N O W F L A K E I I N T  
I K J Y L J H B R C H N T O O  
V I Q Y Q E O I H A H T T W B  
S U C E O U T B C S M E E B O  
K M H K C E C X L I C R N A G  
A N I G Z P H F S I C A S L G  
T Q L P C F O V S H Z L R L A  
I B L L O F C L V N O Z E F N  
N V Y O L V O I M F O V A B S  
G L S W D Q L S I I F W E R B  
I N N G H O A K Y C Z J M L D  
B B O O T S T I O D Y J O A N  
Z Z W N Q X E G X F X R F Z N  
N F R E E Z I N G J O M V G W

hotchocolate

blizzard

icicle

snow

Winter



snowflake

skating

boots

icy

cold



snowball

snowman

chilly

toboggan

plow

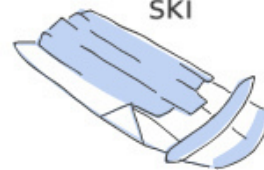
freezing

shovel

scarf

mittens

ski





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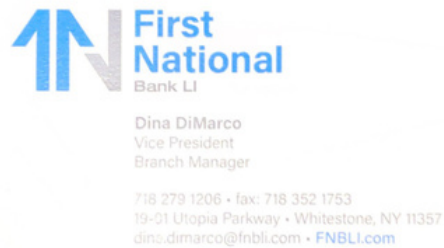
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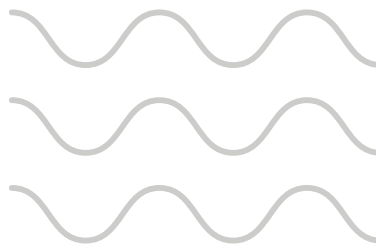
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