



WE LOVE WHITESTONE NEWSLETTER Q2

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WELOVEWHITESTONE.COM

"GET UP, GET OUT
AND GET INVOLVED."

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



**We Love
Whitestone
Newsletter**

"GET UP, GET OUT
AND GET INVOLVED."

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 **We Love
Whitestone**



**We Love
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Newsletter**

BOARD MEMBERS

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Recent Town Hall



Community Easter Egg Hunt

NEW DATE

Hop On Over And Take A Photo With The Easter Bunny!

Sunday, April 2nd @ 1 PM
at Francis Lewis Park, Whitestone
*** Please Be On Time As Supplies Are Limited! ***

Free Event But Registration Is Necessary
Please Register @ <https://www.immanuelwhitestone.com>

E-mail Questions To: friendsoffrancislewispark@gmail.com

****NUT FREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE****

Logos: Friends of Francis Lewis Park, We Whitestone, Immanuel Whitestone, Seed Church, R&M Sports Design Works



Great time at
Fierce
Dragon
Self Defense
Training!



"Teaching the next generation to be civic superheroes! *The We Love Whitestone Civic Association had a blast visiting P.S. 193 during Civics Week and sharing the importance of being involved in our community. Who knows, maybe one of these 3rd, 4th, or 5th graders will be the driving force behind positive change in Whitestone one day?" -@ps193ql



Paper Shredding Event



Today's shredding event was a great success. Time shred was a great company to work with. Fast, efficient and the gentleman from the company helped everyone with a smile. **-Regina of We Love Whitestone**



Veteran Spotlight

Navy Veteran, Arthur Grabiner



From the desk of Doug Grabiner:

The Philippines honored Dad for his service, sacrifice and valor in liberating the Filipino people and the Philippines from the Japanese military during WWII. While proudly serving in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Laurens APA153 in the Pacific Theater during WWII, Dad, as a teenager, participated in the Invasion of Lingayan Gulf in Northern Luzon in the Philippines and the Battle of Okinawa.

If I may also please share the following link to an article concerning the ceremony during which Dad was honored. The article was published in The FilAm before the ceremony.

<https://thefilam.net/archives/38321>

Photo above:

Arthur Grabiner at 97

He is inducted in 2019 into the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame.



***We Love
Whitestone
Newsletter***

Veteran Spotlight

Navy Veteran, Arthur Grabiner



The FilAm: A Magazine for Filipino Americans in New York

Navy veteran Arthur Grabiner, 97, honored for liberating Filipinos in WW II

Posted: April 6th, 2023

In commemoration of the Day of Valor (Araw ng Kagitingan), decorated World War II U.S. Navy veteran Arthur Grabiner was honored at the Philippine Consulate for his service, sacrifice and valor in liberating the Filipino people from the Japanese military.

The April 5 recognition ceremony was led by Consul General Senen Mangalile at Sentro Rizal of the Philippine Center on Fifth Avenue. The ceremony honoring Grabiner, a lifelong New Yorker, coincides with the commemoration of the Fall of Bataan in the Philippines.

Grabiner, as a teenager, participated in the Invasion of Lingayan Gulf in Northern Luzon in the Philippines and the Battle of Okinawa. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Laurens APA153 in the Pacific Theater during WW II.

Among his numerous military honors, he was awarded one of his WW II Asiatic Pacific Medal Battle Stars plus the Philippine Liberation Ribbon 1 Star and Philippine Presidential Unit Citation for his participation in the Invasion of Lingayan Gulf in Northern Luzon.

Grabiner, 97, described a deadly attack by a Japanese kamikaze suicide aircraft on his U.S. Navy Task Unit in Philippine waters.

"Following stops on South Pacific islands including New Guinea and New Caledonia, our crew aboard the USS Laurens set sail for the Invasion of Lingayen Gulf in northern Luzon in the Philippines. Late in the afternoon of January 12, 1945, the Laurens joined a convoy of ships comprising Task Unit 79.14.6 underway to the Philippines. At approximately 8:30am the following day, January 13, 1945, a Japanese kamikaze suicide aircraft attacked our task unit missing the amphibious command ship Mount Olympus AGC-8 and striking the USS Zeilin APA3, a sister attack transport ship, dead ahead of the Laurens. The right wing of the Japanese aircraft struck cargo loading equipment next to the Zeilin's number 6 cargo hatch. The kamikaze plane's fuselage crashed into the starboard side of the Zeilin's housetop. Weapons carried by the aircraft exploded and started several fires on the ship. Topside damage to the Zeilin was extensive. The superstructure deck was destroyed, deck framing was damaged and several staterooms were destroyed. The suicide aircraft's engine pierced the ship's deck, the outboard bulkhead landed in a landing craft carried by the Zeilin. Seven crew members on the Zeilin, our sister ship in our task unit, were killed, three crew members were declared missing (presumably dead) and 30 crew members were wounded."

In 2019, he was inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame.

Interviewed two years ago by the Jewish news site Forward.com, he described how he was looking forward to his 100th birthday. He said, "I'm excitedly anticipating my 100th birthday. I'll be surrounded by family including my children, grandchildren, perhaps great-grandchildren by then, friends and fellow WW II veterans. No one will tell me I can't have a second slice of birthday cake... hey, it's my 100th birthday celebration."

He is a longtime resident of Flushing in Queens.

Source: <https://thefilam.net/archives/38321>

ANNUAL

'WHY WE LOVE WHITESTONE'



ESSAY CONTEST

\$250 1st Place Prize

Middle School & High School Students

\$25 Gift Card Runners Up

Write a 500 word essay about 'Why YOU Love Whitestone'. Describe what you like and enjoy most about Whitestone. Share your thoughts on community involvement and how it benefits the community.

Submit Your Essay Online at:

WeLoveWhitestone.com/Essay-Contest

Submission Deadline: May 10, 2023

GENERAL RULES

- Must be a Current Middle School or High School Student
- There will be Two \$250 Cash Prizes & Two \$25 Runner Up Gift Cards
One Each to One Middle School Winner and One High School Winner
- Essay Submission Deadline is May 10, 2022
- 500 Word Minimum Typed Essay
- Must be a Current Whitestone Resident

AWARD PRESENTATION May 17th, 7:30pm at the
WE LOVE WHITESTONE MEETING at
GRACE CHURCH, 14-15 Clintonville Street



Have Questions???
Email LauraCopersino.WLW@gmail.com

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**SAMPLE FROM
 25 LOCAL EATERIES**

**Thurs May 18, 2023
 at 7pm**

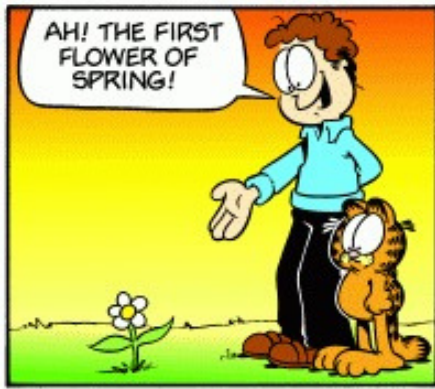
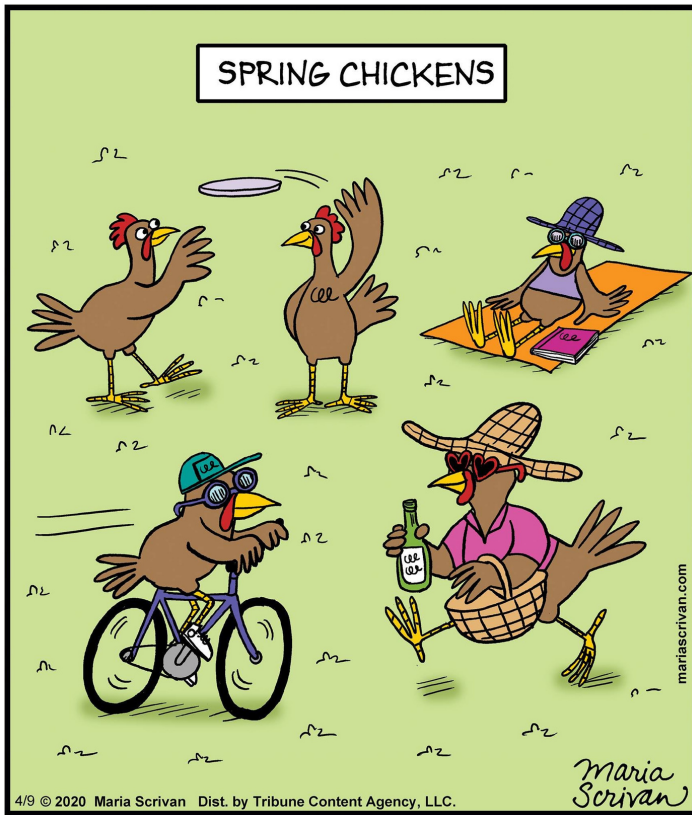
EVENT LOCATION: HOLY CROSS CHURCH
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Adults \$20
Children under 12 \$10

Contact: whitestonemerchants@yahoo.com

Tickets will be sold at:
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