

WEST ISLIP ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 84 WEST ISLIP, NY 11795

Newsletter

www.westislipassociation.org

September 2009

President's Message

Hi!

I am Joe DeCarlo, president of the West Islip Association. Welcome to the 34th Annual West Islip Country Fair. West Islip Association is comprised of 14 dedicated residents whose primary mission is to use a "can-do" approach toward solving the issues facing our community.

We had our beginnings back in early 2008 (when we were known as the LaGrange Task Force). Although the LaGrange Inn had not been designated as an Historical Preservation Site, in the minds and hearts of long-time West Islip residents, it represents what this community was in the history of our country. It is the centerpiece of West Islip. While there remains much to do with the LaGrange, we continue to work toward partnering the owners of the Inn with prospective tenants.

West Islip Association is charged with helping to enrich the community to the benefit of its businesses, its visitors and its residents.

The Mission of West Islip Association is to work with the community, community groups and local officials to ensure that West Islip maintains its character and remains a comfortable place in which to live and work.

Our goals are to provide a voice for residents to maintain a pleasing atmosphere for the Community, and to promote the common good and general welfare of the residents of West Islip. West Islip Association attempts to achieve these goals by means of communication, and the expression of neighborhood goals and opinions to public agencies. WIA attempts to identify and evaluate needs, disseminate information, and take appropriate action to support West Islip interests with the common goal of improving the economic well-being of our community.

We hope that you enjoy your day here at the Country Fair and are pleased to have you stop by our booth and say hello.

We look forward to speaking with you.

Happenings

WIA members have been attending Town Hall Planning Board meetings which focus on properties in West Islip in the process of refurbishing, demolishing or rebuilding. The progress regarding the following properties has been followed by our directors.

Stop and Shop

Union Wine and Liquors has been open for business since the second week in July. The section of the building which had contained the Liquor and Card stores was demolished on July 15, 2009. The plans for the facade of the new building were presented to the Executive Board for review. It is expected that the Supermarket will be closed for approximately twelve weeks at the end of September. The Grand Re-opening is planned for some time in mid-December.

LaGrange

After many years and a great deal of effort, the owners of LaGrange have decided they cannot continue to keep their doors open as it is no longer financially feasible to do so, but will continue to explore any offers presented to them.

The Country Deli

A sign on the Hawley Avenue/Higbie Lane site states that work will begin in the fall.

Higbie Community Center Library/Museum

At a recent meeting with Islip Supervisor Nolan and interested community members, it was decided to make the West Islip Community Museum collection available to the public. The room will be cleaned and prepared for this use by moving any rare items and books into the George Weeks Library room across the hall. The remaining exhibits will be arranged only around the perimeter of the room so it can be used for small meetings. The Town has agreed to repair bookcases in the library room and allow it to remain open only for scheduled, monitored use. Community members have volunteered to clean and re-shelve all the displaced books, and people from both Sagtikos and W. I. Historical Societies will schedule hours of coverage. A local resident has volunteered to arrange for re-wiring the 2 rooms and providing an air conditioner. We hope to have student and adult volunteers begin computerizing the catalog information as soon as the books are back in place.

West Islip Beach

A public hearing was held on July 9th at the West Islip American Legion Hall. Many of the local residents voiced their opposition to any commercialization of the beach area. Islip Town Supervisor Philip Nolan proposed a Task Force and asked for volunteers to lend helping hands to the project. Keep Islip Clean, the West Islip Summit coalition's Quality of Life Committee, West Islip Association, West Islip Beautification, Good Samaritan, West Islip High School, other community groups and many residents volunteered their time to paint the Beach Pavilion. The Beach continues to be maintained by the Town of Islip Parks Department.

Montauk Highway

The DOT has an on-going investigation in place on the stretch of road from West Bay Shore to the curve at Oak Neck Lane. WIA expects a letter from the DOT with their findings.

Audi

The building on the northwest corner of Udall Road and Sunrise Highway has been razed and the project awaits Town permits.

Best Yet

The abandoned house which was a gathering spot for troublemakers behind the Best Yet Market has been purchased and it is hoped that this will cut down on the vandalism at that site. The facade on the stores in the Shopping Center is currently being refurbished. WIA has learned that all shops will have new signs and the parking lot will be repaved.

The Moose Lodge

The former Moose Lodge was demolished on July 9th and the land has been cleared. No construction schedule has been set for the residential home which will be built first. The owner will meet with the West Islip Association when plans have been completed for the law office.

John Street/Higbie Lane Intersection

In response to requests from West Islip Association, the Department of Public Works conducted a study to determine the need for westbound and northbound left-turn phases at that intersection. Left-turn arrows and phases will be introduced during the reconstruction of this traffic signal scheduled for 2010.

Farrell's of Brooklyn

An up-scale bar and restaurant will supplant Mustang Sally's, the familiar and long-time West Islip bar on Higbie Lane. The original Farrell's of Brooklyn has been a fixture on Brooklyn's Park Slope since 1933. WIA hopes that the new establishment will enjoy the same success in our hamlet.

Roman Lane Church

The little church just south of the Community center on Higbie Lane is up for sale. There are reports that the building has historic status and is actually protected and cannot be taken down, but this has not been confirmed. Further information is needed.

WIA continues to monitor progress involving Pride Automotive, the Dzus property, West Islip Florist, 7-Eleven (North), the Clam Distributor, Everdell/King Kullen situation and after-school programs for our youth.
