

# West Islip Association

P.O. BOX 84 WEST ISLIP, NY 11795

Newsletter

[www.westislipassociation.org](http://www.westislipassociation.org)

July 2009

## West Islip Association Asks for Your Help

A recent Editorial by Greg Sleter of the West Islip Tribune addressed an issue which should concern residents of this community. Mr. Sleter spoke of the number of residents who attended a West Islip Chamber of Commerce meeting in March of last year. Hundreds of residents were in attendance to express their displeasure over the proposal to construct a Walgreens drug store on the site of the LaGrange Inn. At a recent Town Board meeting, a large number of residents attended to express their opposition to the construction of a 7-Eleven convenience store on the corner of Udall Road and Hunter Avenue/Muncey Road.

Mr. Sleter also noted that a recent meeting of the West Islip Summit Council attracted fewer attendees

than either of the LaGrange or 7-Eleven meetings. The West Islip Summit was formulated to encourage an exchange of ideas on how to ensure that West Islip maintains its character and remains a comfortable place to live and work.

The suggestion that developers and business owners will view West Islip as the community of "no" is quite discomfiting. The West Islip Tribune Editor-in-Chief has challenged members of this community to volunteer to serve on local groups and lend their voices, their ideas and their energies to improving our beloved Hamlet.

This Association would like to point to the many projects which WIA has supported and encouraged as presented herein.

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## 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.

### LaGrange/Good Samaritan

WIA, realizing Good Samaritan Hospital's need for expansion, has proposed that the Hospital consider leasing the La Grange property for administrative offices. Leasing the La Grange for administrative use would provide support staff with office space in close proximity to the hospital while freeing up much needed space in the main building. Leasing would also keep the property on the town tax rolls. This utilization would insure the La Grange building would not be closed and boarded up but would remain a focal point in our town.

### Best Yet

The property on Higbie Drive and Sears Road has been sold. It is being remolded by contractor for resale. This should resolve the problem of youths breaking into the empty house behind the stores in that area.

### Everdell/KingKullen

The area behind King Kullen bordering on Everdell Avenue has been a source of angst for residents of that area. The management company has recently installed seven new dusk to dawn lights to discourage vandalism and loitering. Arrangements have been made for additional trash pickups on Saturdays and power washing has been scheduled to remove the graffiti. Majestic Property Management has also promised vigorous prosecution of anyone caught on camera vandalizing or participating in illegal activities.

### John Street/Higbie Lane Intersection

West Islip Association has sent a letter to the Chief Engineer at the Department of Public Works, Traffic Engineering requesting that left turn signals be installed for westbound traffic on Union Boulevard and northbound traffic on Higbie Lane.

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### **West Islip Florist**

West Islip florist property is still for sale. Code enforcement will investigate the condition of the property with regard to violations.

### **Babylon Ford**

A three story building (the height of the LaGrange) appeared to have been acceptable to the Town Planning Board at a LaGrange Task Force meeting last year. The developer has recently learned that, to comply with town codes, the decorative façade would have to be eliminated. The flat roof would not have the look and feel of the colonial theme being advanced by WIA for all new buildings in the town. For an architectural rendering of the proposed building, visit our website at [www.westislipassociation.org](http://www.westislipassociation.org).

### **Stop and Shop**

Construction for the liquor store site has begun. The roofing has been removed and it is anticipated that the store will be relocated by the end of June.

### **Moose Lodge**

The Town Planning Board claims that there are Zoning issues for the residential portion of this site. The building cannot be demolished until the Zoning Board of Appeals decides on the rezoning issues of the residential portion.

### **7-Eleven**

There seems to be a great deal of resistance to the proposed construction of a 7-Eleven on the southeast corner of Udall and Muncey Roads (site of a Getty Gas Station, north of Sunrise Highway). The Islip Town Board meeting held on May 27th attracted hundreds from that residential area.

### **West Islip Beach**

A public hearing dealing with the future of the West Islip Beach will be held in the West Islip American Legion Hall, Union Boulevard on Thursday, July 9, 7-10pm.

### **Clam Distributer**

A Certificate of Occupancy has been issued for the business. The only outstanding violation is the outdoor storage which is being reviewed.

### **Rayco**

West Islip Association has learned that the Rayco 2000 Auto Service Center will be closing its doors.

### **Pride Automotive**

Landscaping crews have recently been active on that site.

### **The Country Deli**

This little shop at Hawley Avenue and Higbie Lane is on a SPLIA (Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities) list of buildings of historic note. It was the first post office and small general store. It is listed on a 1980 survey as being an example of a specific type of building used in the late 1800s-early 1900s in rural Long Island. It is known as a "shotgun house" - due to the fact that its long, narrow layout allows a person to stand at the front door and shoot a shotgun directly out the back door.

### **Higbie Community Center Library/Museum**

The Historical Society is working to restore the Weeks Library and the Community Museum located at the Center on Higbie Lane. The goal is to have these sites used by the community as a window into our rich history, and also to make these resources available for historic research. Repairs in the Weeks Library are slowly being finished, and small groups can use it for meetings. There are tentative plans to combine the museum and library holdings when repairs are complete.

### **Roman Lane Church**

Questions have come in about the fate of the little church just south of the Community center on Higbie Lane. It is up for sale, and an Anglican congregation may be interested. The building has historic status and is actually protected - cannot be taken down. Further information is anticipated.

### **Audi**

Work on this site is on hold awaiting the issuance of a permit by the Town.

### **Montauk Highway**

The DOT has installed a digital speed limit sign on the eastbound side of Montauk Highway.

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