

VOL. 2 ISSUE 2 • WINTER 2021-2022

WE LOVE WHITESTONE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WLW CIVIC ASSOCIATION



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19TH 2022, 7:30PM

CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING
HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH - BASEMENT

11-05 150TH STREET, WHITESTONE NY 11357
PARKING IN CHURCH PARKING LOT

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- COUNCILWOMAN VICKIE PALADINO
- 109TH PRECINCT: DEPUTY INSPECTOR O'CONNELL

FOLLOWING MEETINGS IN 2022 (MORE DETAILS TBA ON FACEBOOK):

- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH 2022 (TENTATIVE)
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH 2022 (TENTATIVE)

OUR WEBSITE GOT A MAKEOVER!

USE THE QUICK AND EASY QR CODE
-OR VISIT-

[HTTP://WELOVEWHITESTONE.COM](http://welovewhitestone.com)
TO SEE OUR LATEST NEWS AND ALSO
TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR
MAKE A DONATION!
YOU CAN EVEN HELP SPONSOR OUR
NEWSLETTERS!



THIS ISSUE:

TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULE
PAGE 01

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT
PAGE 02

OPERATION: GIVE BACK 2021 TOY DRIVE
PAGE 03

VETERAN SPOTLIGHT
PAGE 04

WHITESTONE STATION, 1914
PAGE 06

WLW 2021 RECAP
PAGE 07

NYPD CRIME PREVENTION
PAGE 09

UPCOMING EVENTS
PAGE 13

SPONSORS
PAGE 14





A Message from Our President

ALFREDO CENTOLA

Just a note, to say thank you to our wonderful neighbors and many supporters.

When this civic was started, we were focused on one or two issues within our community. One of the major issues was the village and our small businesses, after years of organizing and working together with the local merchants, the Whitestone Merchants Association was formed. When they refused to put a four way stop sign on 17th avenue, we organized with members of the immediate area and although DOT refused to do anything we pressed forward and with a press conference and video of several accidents DOT quietly and quickly placed a 4-way stop in the early hours before the guaranteed to be embarrassing press conference. When the complaints about the Parks upkeep got to a point where complaining alone wouldn't cut it, local members stepped up and the Friends of Francis Lewis Park group was formed. My Mantra has always been GET UP, GET OUT AND GET INVOLVED.

Our community has heeded the call and has GOTTEN UP, GOTTEN OUT AND GOTTEN INVOLVED. There are issues that still need to be resolved and there are issues that will come up, after all this is NYC and we are but a suburb in that vast mosaic. Our community is a hidden gem with many hidden gems and is an extremely desired community for all families. The level of excitement and involvement in our many endeavors is more than proof of just how special our community is. To see the inspiration that comes from your involvement, is breathtaking and a source of pride that cannot be expressed.

So please continue to GET UP, CONTINUE TO GET OUT AND CONTINUE TO GET INVOLVED. This is our community, and we will continue to make the difference.

"GET UP, GET OUT AND GET INVOLVED."

ALFREDO CENTOLA

PRESIDENT OF THE WE LOVE WHITESTONE CIVIC ASSOCIATION





Operation: Give Back, 2021 Toy Drive

ARIANNA SORRENTO

Hi Everyone!

Hope you all had an amazing holiday. I wanted to provide you with a final update on Operation: Give Back!

We had about 2,000 toys donated this year and raised over \$2,200! With these donations, we were able to spread the love and donate to multiple charities across Queens/Long Island. With the funds, we were able to buy gift cards, baby diapers and baby wipes to be donated.

Donations were made to the following charities and organizations:

- Ronald McDonald House Charities New York Metro (267-07 76th Ave, New Hyde Park, NY)
- Ohel Children's Home and Family Services
<https://www.facebook.com/ohelfamily>
- The Bridge To Life, Inc. (x2)
- New York Families For Autistic Children
<https://www.facebook.com/NYFAC.HB/>
- Family & Children's Association
- The Dollicia F. Holloway Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Thank you to Alfredo Centola for pushing me to do this again this year! I also thank him for supporting and helping me with this toy drive for the second year in a row! And thank you to our local shops who allowed us to have our donation boxes in your store (Harpell Pharmacies - Natural Markets & Juice Bars, Exxon, Whitepoint Cleaners & Bagel Parlor)!

Special thank you to my family + fiancé for helping make this happen again this year. I literally wouldn't have been able to do this without you and all of your help.

Most importantly, I wanted to personally thank all donors for your support. You don't understand how your donations had not only a huge impact on myself but to SO many children + families. 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



OPERATION: GIVE BACK



2021 TOY DRIVE

FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS. YOUR DONATIONS WENT DIRECTLY TO CHILDREN WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THAN US. WE ARE EXTREMELY THANKFUL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

MANY THANKS!

Arianna Sorrento
+
Alfredo Centola

We Love Whitestone



Veteran Spotlight

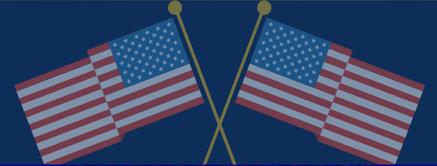
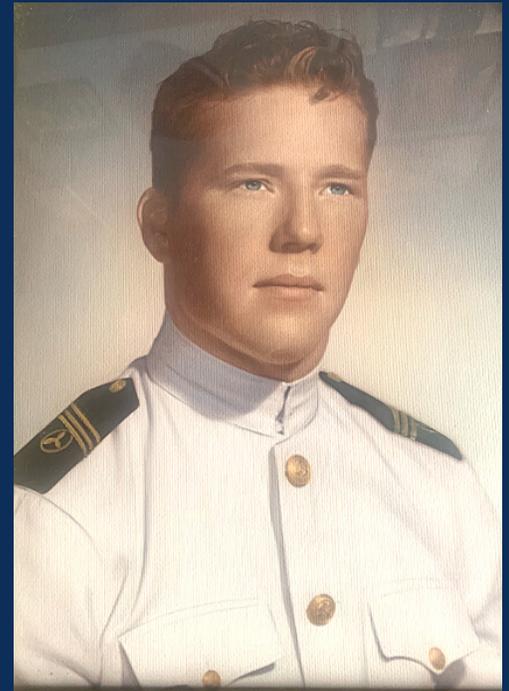
DONALD J. SCHROEDER, PHD

Hi! My name is Donald Schroeder. I am 83 years old. My family moved to Whitestone in 1946 when I was seven years old, and I have remained a resident of this oasis of NYC ever since. My father was an NYPD sergeant and my mom cooked for the priests from St. Luke's for over twenty-five years.

In 1952 I graduated from St Luke's grammar school and for the next four years I traveled for about three hours a day back and forth from Whitestone to downtown Brooklyn to attend Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School. Upon graduation in 1956 I was very proud to become a plebe majoring in marine engineering at the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point. Four years later I graduated from Kings Point with honors and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree, a commission as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy, and a Coast Guard issued license to sail as a Third Assistant Engineer on United States merchant ships.

At the time of my graduation from Kings Point compulsory military service was still in effect. Therefore, to satisfy this military obligation, I sailed in the merchant marine for three years and visited dozens of foreign countries in the process. The primary life lesson I learned from that three-year period was how extremely fortunate I was to have been born in the USA. I truly wish that all the present-day critics of this country knew more about the living conditions in many foreign countries. If they did, I believe they might temper their criticism.

After I satisfied my military obligation, in 1964 I fulfilled my lifelong desire to become a member of the New York City Police Department. Then in 1967 I was promoted to the rank of sergeant, in 1969 I became a lieutenant, and in 1973 I achieved the rank of captain. By going from a rookie cop to a captain in less than ten years I am proud to say that I was the first person to ever do so. Most of the credit for that achievement, however, belongs to my father. He was my constant advisor, he paid the tuition for the many promotion preparation schools I attended, and, more importantly, constantly motivated me to achieve.



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A review of the most common question types • More





Veteran Spotlight (Cont.)

DONALD J. SCHROEDER, PHD

Perhaps the sagest advice my dad gave me was to continue my formal education. As a result, during the time I was working in the NYPD I earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Master's Degree in Philosophy, both from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Another career shaping event occurred in 1975 when I was loaned by the Police Commissioner to the Education Testing Service at Princeton University to help develop a more valid entrance and promotional process for the NYPD. The six months that I then worked at Princeton laid the foundation for my second career as discussed later.

In 1981 my police career came to abrupt end when I was forced to leave the department because of an injury I suffered when trying to quell a street riot that occurred when I was the Commanding Officer of the 81st Precinct in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. Fortunately, upon my retirement from the NYPD I was offered a position as an Adjunct Professor at John Jay College working with the Dean of Special Programs which I eagerly accepted. At that time John Jay was not a state certified Police Academy and, along with a long-term colleague of mine, I was assigned to work with various state agencies to have John Jay certified as a Police Academy which we accomplished in about a year's time. It was during this time that I went back to my post graduate studies at the City University of New York. This led to my being awarded a Ph D in Criminal Justice in 1987.

It was about this time when serendipity led me and Frank Lombardo, my previously mentioned long term colleague, to become the Criminal Justice Authors for the Barrons Book Company. In that capacity we published five books to help those who want to gain entrance into and earn promotion in various law enforcement agencies. One of our books, originally published in 1984, "How to Prepare for the Police Officer Exam", is currently in its tenth edition and has to date sold over 400,000 copies.

It was also about this time when my partner and I left John Jay College and formed our own consulting company which we called "Rems Training Associates". Then during the next thirty years we traveled up and down the east coast holding seminars designed to help thousands of candidates enter and become successful in various criminal justice agencies.

I am currently "almost" fully retired and enjoy my life with Liz, my beautiful wife of over 32 years, who was an NYPD detective when she retired in 2004. In reflecting back over my career, I deem myself a very lucky guy to have been born into a nuclear family with a role model father who understood the value of a good education and sacrificed to make sure his children went to college. I also will always be grateful to have grown up in Whitestone. I can't imagine a finer place to live.



Photograph of Whitestone Station, 1914

PHOTO: JASON D. ANTOS COLLECTION

A rare photograph of Whitestone station masters H. V. Truitt and R. E. Jordan posing on the track side of the Whitestone Long Island Railroad station in 1914.

The three level station house, which closed on February 12, 1932 and was torn down in March of 1933, was located opposite what is now Verdis on the Cross Island Parkway.

During the flu pandemic of 1918, passengers waiting for the train refused to enter the station because it was scrubbed daily with disinfectant causing people's eyes to water and burn. Truitt and Jordan lived upstairs while the lower level featured the waiting room, a coffee shop and taxi service.

"The three level station house, which closed on February 12, 1932 and was torn down in March of 1933"

JASON D. ANTOS COLLECTION



THIS IS WE LOVE WHITESTONE

WLW 2021 RECAP

- Nine Town Hall Meetings
- Meet the Candidates Night
- Summer Concert Series with Friends of Francis Lewis Park
- Trunk-or-Treat with the Whitestone Merchants Association
- 20th Anniversary of 9/11 Memorial with Friends of Francis Lewis Park
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Operation, Give Back: 2021 Toy Drive with Arianna Sorrento
- Tree Lighting with the Whitestone Merchants Association

☆
VOTE RESPONSIBLY

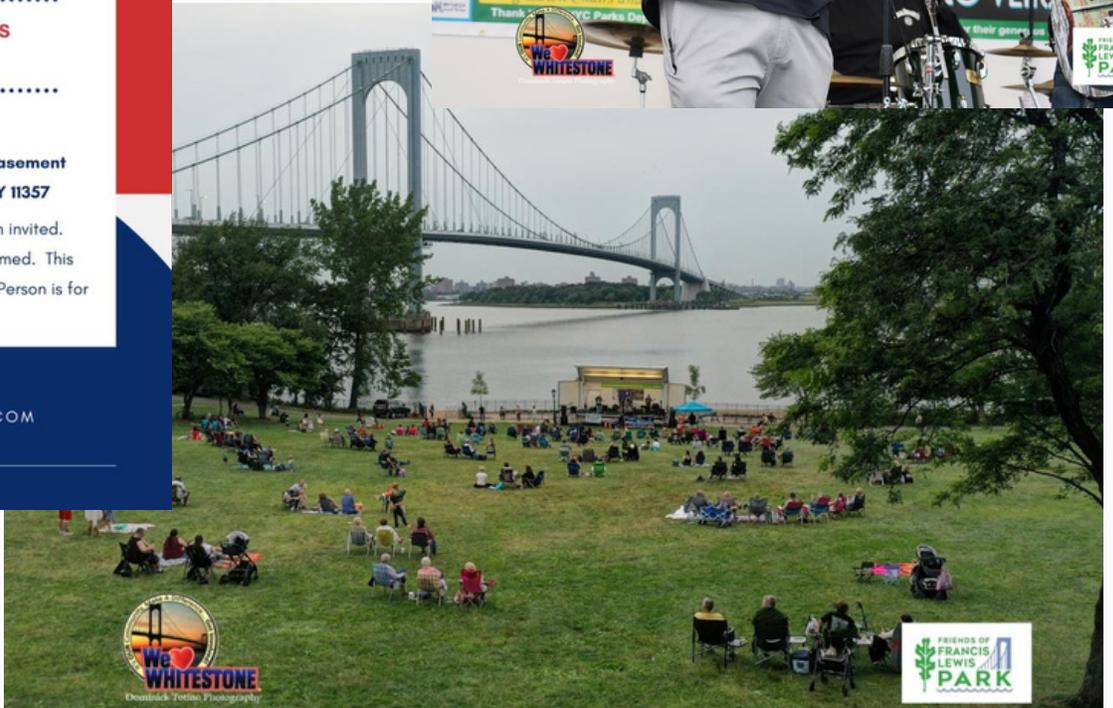
MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

June 16th 2021, 7:00PM

St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church - Basement
16-34 Clintonville St., Whitestone, NY 11357

All candidates for city council have been invited.
Please make it your business to get informed. This election may decide who our City Council Person is for the next 10 years!

WE LOVE WHITESTONE
WWW.WELOVEWHITESTONE.COM



THIS IS WE LOVE WHITESTONE

WLW 2021 RECAP





BURGLARY ALERT

THERE HAS BEEN A RECENT INCREASE IN BURGLARIES WITHIN THE AREA. HERE ARE A FEW SAFETY TIPS TO HELP SAFEGUARD YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

- 1. PLEASE CLOSE THE BUILDING DOOR BEHIND YOU. DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR FOR ANYONE WHO YOU DO NOT RECOGNIZE. IF THEY LIVE IN THE BUILDING THEY SHOULD HAVE A KEY.**
- 2. DO NOT BUZZ ANYONE INTO THE BUILDING USING THE INTERCOM IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHO THEY ARE. ALWAYS CHECK TO SEE WHO THAT PERSON IS.**
- 3. BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR HOUSE, PLEASE CHECK TO ENSURE YOUR WINDOWS ARE CLOSED AND LOCKED. CLOSE ALL DRAPES WHEN YOU LEAVE. BE SURE TO USE ALL THE LOCKS ON YOUR FRONT DOOR.**
- 4. IF YOU HAVE AN AIR CONDITIONER MAKE SURE IT IS SCREWED TO THE WINDOW FRAME SO THAT IT CAN NOT BE EASILY PUSHED IN.**
- 5. CLEAR AWAY ALL GARBAGE CANS AND LADDERS FROM THE SIDE AND BACK OF YOUR HOUSE. THEY CAN BE USED TO CLIMB INTO WINDOWS.**
- 6. TAKE OUT YOUR KEY WHILE YOU ARE WALKING TOWARDS YOUR BUILDING OR FRONT DOOR, THIS WAY YOU CAN GET IN QUICKLY AND CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU.**
- 7. IF YOU WILL NOT BE HOME FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME, HAVE THE POST OFFICE HOLD YOUR MAIL UNTIL YOU RETURN HOME.**

**ANY PROBLEMS WITH TRESPASSERS, ILLEGAL ACTIVITY PLEASE CALL 911.
ANY PROBLEMS, SUCH AS NOISE COMPLAINTS, PLEASE CALL 311.
IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING A CRIME,
CALL CRIME STOPPERS AT 1-800 577- TIPS(8477)**



VEHICLE AND TOOL THEFT ALERT



A Message from the 109th Precinct

There have been recent incidents where commercial work vehicles are being stolen. Also, the vehicles are being broken into and the tools inside are being stolen.

Please follow these crime prevention tips to best safeguard your vehicle and tools inside.

- Close all windows and lock all doors.
- Strengthen your windows with security film or grating.
- Install a “hockey puck” lock and hasp to the doors to prevent intrusion into the vehicle.
- Equip vehicle with an audible car alarm and a GPS Tracker.
- Park in a well lit area and within range of a camera.
- Activate any theft deterrent devices you have.
- If a suspicious person is around your vehicle, call 911 with a description or license plate number of involved vehicle.
- Join the police department’s anti-auto theft programs.

Contact the 109th Precinct Crime Prevention Officer at 917-863-2815 for further details and information.

109th Precinct

Crime Prevention



NYPD

NEW YORK'S FINEST

CAR BREAK-IN ALERT



A Message from the 109th Precinct

There have been recent incidents where cars are being broken into and having property inside stolen.

Please follow these crime prevention tips to avoid becoming a victim.

- **Keep doors LOCKED at all times. Keep windows up.**
- **Do not store any valuables in your vehicle. (Electronic devices, cash, credit cards, purses, etc.)**
- **Activate any security devices your vehicle may have.**
- **If you must leave property unattended, place them out of plain sight inside a locked trunk.**
- **To the best extent possible, always try to park your vehicle in a well lit area within range and unobstructed view of a camera.**
- **For further details and information, contact the 109th Precinct Crime Prevention Officer at 917-863-2815.**
- **The community's involvement is essential in catching a thief, so if you see any suspicious activity call 911. You may remain anonymous when calling.**

109th Precinct

Crime Prevention



NYPD

NEW YORK'S FINEST

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT ALERT



A Message from the 109th Precinct

Catalytic Converters are being targeted for theft. Please follow these crime prevention tips to avoid becoming a victim.

- Many of these thefts occur in the middle of the night, so pay attention to suspicious persons or vehicles.
- To the best extent possible, always try to park your vehicle in a well lit area within range and unobstructed view of a video camera.
- Activate any **alarms** you may have, preferably one with a tilt sensor that will trigger with just the slightest motion.
- Visit an auto mechanic to have the converter welded with hardened steel to secure it to the vehicle's frame.
- Engrave your license plate number on the converter to make it traceable.
- The community's involvement is essential in catching a thief, so if you see any suspicious activity call 911. You may remain anonymous when calling.
- Please join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NYPD109PCT & follow us on Twitter - @NYPD109Pct.
- For further details and information, contact the 109th Precinct Crime Prevention Unit at 718-321-2343.

109th Precinct

Crime Prevention



WE LOVE WHITESTONE

UPCOMING EVENTS

NYPD BLOCK WATCHER TRAINING CLASS

Saturday Feb 19th, 2022 @ 10:00 Am

Location; St. Luke Pastoral Center

16-34 Clintonville Street

Whitestone, NY 11357

Please let us know if you're interested,

Registration: <http://welovewhitestone/upcoming-events>



2022 Events To Be Announced...

CHECK WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, NEWSLETTERS, EMAIL FOR FUTURE UPDATES

- 2022 We Love Whitestone Scholarship: Why We Love Whitestone
- 2022 Summer Concert Series
- 2022 Family Fun Day
- 2022 Trunk or Treat
- 2022 Tree Lighting

More to be announced!

WE LOVE WHITESTONE

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