



**WEST
END
NEIGHBORS**

WEST END NEWS

www.westendneighbors-longbeach.org

August 2008

Calendar of Events

Aug 27th— West End Neighbors Meeting,
Knights of Columbus
W. Beech St 7:00pm

September 15th - City Council Meeting
7:00pm

Farmer's Market at Kennedy Plaza, every Wednesday from 12pm to 7pm.



12th Annual Volleyball competition fundraiser in Memory of Michelle O'Neill on Grand Boulevard beach, **Saturday, September 6th at 9:00am.** Proceeds benefit children with cancer. Raffles, entertainment, and food. To participate call 432-3521 or visit www.monfoundation.org.

For more information, visit us online at:

www.westendneighbors-longbeach.org/

BREAKING NEWS....

This upcoming meeting, Wednesday, August 27th at 7:00pm, (@ Knights of Columbus) will be the perfect time for one and all West End residents to attend. The reason ... **PARKING!** The City of Long Beach has hired a professional parking consultant who along with the City Manager, Charles Theofan, will present a 'Four Point Strategy' that will hopefully relieve some of the #1 problem in the West End. We implore you to turn out for this very important meeting.

Letter from the President...

I would like to begin by thanking our members who continually come to the West End Neighbors Civic Association's open meetings. As I peruse the crowd I notice many familiar faces and a particular demographic. Our attendees are predominantly upper-middle and senior in age (although very attractive and handsome). I only make note to this fact because it baffles me as to why younger people, both single and with families, do not take the short time to come out and hear what is being done (or not) by our city officials and services. Alas, we shall continue to try our best to capture the interest of those that may be most affected by the changes that will hopefully take place. Of course if any of you can bring a friend or neighbor along please do so. And, for the member who brings in the most new members, you will be the lucky winner of a special prize (TBA)! *Void where prohibited.*

As you all know, traffic safety on our streets (particularly Oceanview) in the West End is a major concern. With that in mind, I want to tell you that we are continuing our effort with City Hall to take measures that will prevent the kind of accident we know is just waiting to happen:

- Re-painting stop lines
- Re-adjusting STOP signs to proper

heights

- Reflective tape or STOP signs
- Virtual Reality Speed control (go to Trafficlogic.com)

These simple, low cost projects just might help avoid one of us getting hurt, or worse.

This brings me to my final thoughts. I remember when Rudy Guiliani was elected mayor, the first thing he did when he got into office was attach the "Quality of Life" issues that bothered the people most. With this in mind, this is our approach with City Hall and the City Council. Let's do the small things that really add up to a brighter, better big picture. It also means all of us doing the "little" things that make life a bit more pleasant. Like picking up after your pets when walking them. Like picking up your own trash, as well as, that which might have been blown onto your property. And maybe, even picking up one extra piece while you're out just strolling around. Like using your driveways and/or garages where possible. Like just being courteous to one another. Because folks, as I like to say... **Courtesy is Contagious!**

Take Care,

Rick

SAFETY FIRST

Walking around the West End is not always easy and neither is riding a bicycle. Last summer, WENCA formed a Congestion Reduction Task Force to address the problems that arise from having high car traffic in our small, pedestrian-oriented neighborhood. Since then, our Task Force has been meeting regularly with City officials to brainstorm solutions. Having the crosswalks re-painted, creating more parking lots and enacting a resident parking permit program are just some of the upcoming improvements.

While it is great that we are accomplishing things with the City, it is important that we are all aware of common safety issues and what we can do as individuals to make our neighborhood safer. When driving, be cautious of pedestrians. This sounds obvious, but many drivers forget to look to the right when making a right turn on red. Also, please stop on the line before inching up into the crosswalk to make your turn. Remember that pedestrians always have the right of way, especially in a crosswalk! Use extra caution when driving near Oceanview. Too many drivers slip right through the stop signs and turn, without even looking, onto our pedestrian walkway.

Though our streets are quaint, respect the fact that vehicles use them. If you are walking, be sure to pay attention to traffic signals. Beware of crossing against the light and avoid talking on the phone when in a high traffic zone. When bicycling, it is imperative to ride with the traffic. Bicyclists are mandated to follow all the same rules of the road that apply to drivers. It is very dangerous to ride on the wrong side of the road or on the sidewalk. You are putting pedestrians, drivers and other cyclists in danger, as well as yourself. It is also a good idea to protect yourself by wearing a helmet.

If we all put a little more care into our street etiquette, we will enjoy a safer West End and avoid needless tragedy.

Kim Mussman

Chairperson

WENCA Congestion Reduction Task Force



PET OF THE MONTH

Smokey Lonesome

lives on Minnesota Avenue with proud owners
Emily & Paul.

SEED OF THE WEST END AND HOW IT GREW—PART ONE OF A SERIES

Shelter Island

In the 20th Century, today's westerly tip of Long Beach had a completely different start and ownership. It was a territory on the Town of Hempstead's maps named Shelter Island. This fluctuating beach was perceived as just one of Far Rockaway's sand lot beaches, separated from the Long Island Railroad's new Long Beach development by the immeasurable shifts in the Old East Rockaway Inlet. Certainly this territory was considered more a part of the rapidly developing tiny towns (one being Lawrence) than of "that curious Long Beach experiment" the largest seaside resort hotel in the world, which was being constructed on an sandbar. Access to Shelter Island was limited to boat traffic and as a result, it was utilized mostly by the baymen for fishing and hunting. This limited access caused the initial plan to extend Long Beach's Railroad tracks from Cedarhurst through the bays of Far Rockaway to be abandoned.

The plan was revised to proceed over the Hempstead marshes to Long Beach by turning the tracks south at Lynbrook. Thus, Long

Beach Island's sandy beaches were being transformed from the well kept secret of the South Shore baymen of the to the LIRR's new haven of resort pleasure. By 1882, even Oscar Wilde had visited Long Beach twice on his way to his discovered *En Pleine Air* artist colony in Point Lookout.

Slowly, the now Five Towns, laid claim to Far Rockaway's beaches, BUT no one claimed Shelter Island

CONTRIBUTED BY:
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Next- The Hinterlands

Can't wait to read more?

<http://longbeachhistory.org>

Email: info@longbeachhistory.org



BLOCK CAPTAINS NEEDED

The following blocks are in need of block captains to help distribute the newsletters on their block and to keep an eye and ear open for anything that should be brought to the attention of West End Neighbors.

BEACH SIDE

BAY SIDE

- NEVADA
- KENTUCKY
- LOUISIANA
- MICHIGAN
- VERMONT
- VIRGINIA
- WYOMING
- ALABAMA
- OREGON
- ARIZONA
- NEBRASKA
- NEW YORK

- NEVADA
- CONNECTICUT
- KENTUCKY
- LOUISIANA
- MARYLAND
- MICHIGAN
- NEW HAMPSHIRE
- VIRGINIA
- WISCONSINI
- ALBAMA
- DELAWARE
- NEBRASKA

If you are interested in being a BLOCK CAPTAIN please e-mail us at www.westendneighbors-longbeach.org or you may contact Maria Fitzgerald at 917-913-8703. Any questions please call. Your neighbors thank you & WEST END NEIGHBORS CIVIC ASSOC thanks you.

2008 Membership Form

Mail to West End Neighbors Civic Association

248 West Park Avenue Suite 350, Long Beach, NY 11561

*Name: _____

*Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Seniors \$10.00 per year. Family \$20.00 per year

* Required for mailings

AUG08