

PLAZA VOICE FALL 2004

VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

20th ANNUAL STREET FAIR AND AUTOFEST, SEPT. 19TH

The Village of Great Neck Plaza and the Business Improvement District (B.I.D.) are busy coordinating activities for their 20th Annual Street Festival. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 19th, 2004; 12 Noon - 5 PM, with a rain date of Sunday, September 26th. Crowds are expected to reach 35-40,000! "We're proud to offer another country-fair day with enjoyable activities for people now coming to this event from the tri-state area," said Jay Corn, AutoFest Chairman. "This year's event promises to be another great experience."



Judge Conrad Singer and Mayor Jean Celender cheer on pie-eater!

The sound of music will be alive on every corner of the village. The streets will be ablaze with color as red, white and blue balloon arches are placed in the Plaza. Clowns and minstrels will greet you as you stroll through the fair and delight in the multi-cultural aroma and flavor of the village. Did we say flavor and aroma? You will have your choice of a multitude of culinary treats to sink your teeth into from Japan, Italy, China, Persia, Mexico, Greece, Turkey, "good old American hot dogs" and lots of other treats! Join us as we celebrate life in "small town" America; shut off the TV, the computer, the video games and come back to the "good old days" of outdoor fun and frolic!

This year's event showcases some of the best that Great Neck Plaza has to offer. According to Bruce Bent, president of the BID, "This annual event is really a celebration of Great Neck; a way to highlight our wonderful community groups and shopping opportunities." Mayor Jean Celender adds, "The Village of Great Neck Plaza is proud to host this event in association with the BID. It's a way to give thanks to the community for supporting our downtown and the extraordinary shopping and community life that we have here." The Village is grateful to its presenting sponsor, United Capital, and additional sponsor, Golden First Mortgage, for their support of this community and family event.

With antique cars, from early Model A's and T's to vintage Buicks and Cadillac's to classic Jaguars and Bentleys, this year's AutoFest will be our finest ever. Dash Plaques and a 24-ounce commemorative mug will be given out to the first 150 cars registered. With four top bands, rides, games, arts and crafts projects with the Great Neck Arts Center staff, hay rides, a petting zoo and pony rides for the children, demonstrations by the Vigilant Fire Department, Tiger Schulman Karate and JAM Dance studios, three pie eating contests, fall plants from Santelli Brothers with pumpkin carving and painting, and much more!



Mayor Jean A. Celender
Deputy Mayor Ted Rosen
Trustees Joel Liebowitz
Jay Ferkin, and Gerry
Schneiderman
Clerk/Treasurer Patricia
O'Byrne
Editors: Carol Teplin and
Gail Grove

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This year we are offering Free Registration to any and all cars 1931 and prior! For more information call the BID office at 516/829-1301. The BID requests that all cars pre-register as there may not be available space to register on the day of the fair.

Memo from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

As we enter the traditional "dog days" of summer, I notice how unusual this season has been. The higher than normal precipitation, coupled with cooler temperatures than the average have left our lawns still green and our flowering baskets unwilted. It's a time of year marked by vacations, long weekends and an occasional day at the beach or golf course. I hope you are enjoying this wonderful time of year.

Our Summer Concert Series has been well received and some new bands have been a wonderful delight. Please let us know if you have a particular favorite who you would like to see return next year. We have focused on bringing new ethnic groups and have tried to appeal to a wider range of audiences. I hope you will agree that the summer nights in Jon's Park are a special time to kick back and relax for a delightful few moments under the stars.

Our thanks to the Great Neck Park District, our concert event coordinator, Carol Teplin, and to all our loyal participants who come week after week to listen to the music and share a dance or two with me. I find these concerts to be special times and look forward to getting to know you in a relaxed, informal setting.

Much activity has been underway in the Village. In the Spring we participated in a Town Meeting with Supervisor Jon Kaiman regarding Great Neck Road. We heard a great many concerns and

we are reviewing our plans with the goal of addressing the issues raised and preparing a revised preferred alternative which is sensitive to traffic calming needs and the issues raised by the public. We are confident that a plan will be advanced to bring about an acceptable solution. We will notify you before the next public meeting is scheduled.

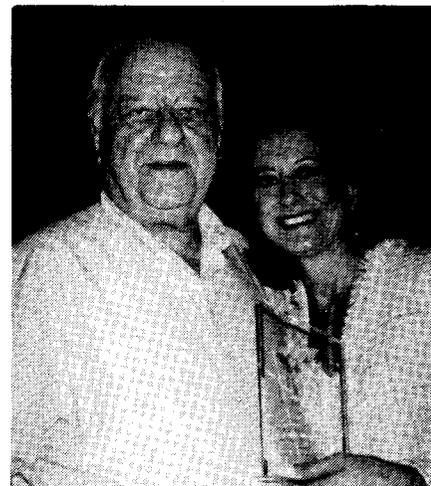
The village also began a pilot enforcement program in the Great Neck Park District commuter lots, at the request of the Park District Commissioners. We are also reviewing similar enforcement of parking restrictions on the private parking areas of the Town House complex on Cutter Mill Road due to the numerous illegal parkers, which creates "quality of life" problems for the residents who spend a great deal of time circulating in the neighborhood to find a parking space. With the village assisting in enforcement it not only helps turn over spaces but sends a strong message to violators that they will be ticketed if they don't have the proper permits for these areas. It also has the effect of sending commuters to train stations other than Great Neck. If commuters know they will be ticketed for being parked illegally or for overtime parking in a space, it will defer them from coming into the community. This benefits not only the Park District and the private lots, but surrounding residential areas as well, which are also used by commuters.

We hope you enjoy the rest of the summer and we look forward to seeing you on September 19th at our 20th Annual Street Fair and AutoFest.



Jean A. Celender, Mayor

The Village of Great Neck Plaza, Sister City to Tiberias Israel, was awarded the Sister Cities International "Best Overall Program for 2004," for a village of its size. At the annual convention in Fort Worth, Texas, Vice President Albert Nassim and President Jean Celender were presented with the award.



"JAVA WITH JEAN," THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH AT 10 AM

Periodically, the Village extends a special welcome and chat session to residents in the Mayor's office with bagels and coffee, which we affectionately call "Java With Jean." This session will not only focus on new residents to the Plaza, but any village resident wishing to join and meet the Mayor. All who are interested are welcomed to participate upon registering in advance. The Mayor urges new residents to notify our offices that you are new to our village, so that we may prepare a "Welcome Kit" which contains information about Great Neck Plaza, peninsula maps, brochures, some goodies and a List of Important Telephone Numbers of elected officials, community organizations and emergency services to have a handy reference to contact these parties. We also encourage residents to visit our website at: www.greatneckplaza.net for more information about our village. To reserve a place at the next "Java With Jean" scheduled for Thursday, September 9th from 10AM to 11 AM, please call Carol Teplin, Assistant to the Mayor, at 482-4500, or e-mail your request to: tc@greatneckplaza.net.

Historic Preservation News

The Village's Historic Preservation Commission has been hard at work over the last six months. The Village designated its first historic district, the Bond Street Historic District. Included in the district is the National Register listed and local landmark 8 Bond Street, also known as the Thomaston Building, along with 3 buildings constructed in the late 1940s and 1950s: 5 Bond Street, 10 and 14 Grace Avenue in the streamlined moderne style. In addition 7 Bond Street, one of the village's first garden apartments is included in the district. The Village also designated the historic Community Church at 2 Stoner Avenue, built in c. 1924 in the Colonial Revival style. The church has historically been home to small congregations of different faiths, a role it continues to play in the Village. At one time it also had a bowling alley in its basement, testifying to its important role in local community life.

As part of the Certified Local Government (CLG) program of New York State as administered through the National Park Service, the Village has applied for funding for a historic building owner's guide to maintaining their historic property. The Village received funding under the CLG program in 2003 for a series of commission training workshops led by the Preservation League of New York where commissioners learned how to evaluate applications by historic property owners for changes to their sites.

The Historic Walking Tour guide to Great Neck Plaza is available free of charge at the Village Hall. For more information on the Village's preservation programs, call Beverly Safian at 516-482-4500.



Historic Preservation Commission Members at a recent meeting. From left to right are Patrick Silberstein, Frank Gencorelli (Chair), Gary Grasso, Marion Green, John Chinkel (Vice-Chair) and Nancy Solomon, (Long Island Traditions Director/Commission Consultant).

"Star Performer" Nomination Form

The next scheduled "Star Performer" Ceremony will be on Thursday, October 7th at 9:30 AM. To qualify for this award you need to nominate someone who goes out of their way to make people feel special, and make Great Neck Plaza a better place to work, shop and live. Potential "Star Performers" greet you with a smile, are eager to help, treat you with dignity, respect and patience so it's a genuine pleasure to do business in the Plaza. If you wish to nominate a "Star Performer" please fill out the form and we will invite you and your "Star" to attend the next award presentation.

Name of your nominee:

Their employer _____

Four words that best describe the nominee:

My name & phone number:

Send this form to VGNP,
Carol Teplin,
2 Gussack Plaza,
PO Box 440
GN NY11022

Happy Third Birthday, Co-Op & Condo Council!

It's hard to believe that the Great Neck Co-op & Condominium Council will be three years old this year. We have achieved so much in a relatively short period of time thanks in part to the many supporters who show up and participate regularly at the bi-monthly meetings.

Our meetings this past year have included presentations and discussions on effective pointing and roof repairs; how to hire a superintendent and effective security issues, among other topics. These meetings have been helpful to Board members in making important and effective decisions on the governing of their Co-ops and Condominiums.

This year we had our third annual picnic, where Board Members have the opportunity to meet and share ideas with each other, relaxing in Jon's Park while feasting on some of the best food Great Neck Plaza has to offer.

We have succeeded in getting the Great Neck School Board to merge tax classes 2, 3 and 4 for school tax purposes which has provided some tax relief to the area's Co-op & Condo owners. This past year we raised concerns of Co-ops and Condos and demanded accountability when the Great Neck Park District sought approval to expend certain tax dollars for various projects. Our accomplishments are far from over and the road ahead still has a number of bumps and curves. Although County Executive Tom Suozzi has told us there would be no new taxes this coming year following this past year's 19.4% County tax increase, Village taxes keep rising; this year's School Budget will exceed \$143,000,000; and the Library wants to pass a bond for up to \$20,000,000 for improvements. Who is going to pay for all this? You and me! All of this at a time when gasoline prices are at record highs, heating costs continue to rise, Co-op & Condo owners pay a higher rate for water than Class 1 property owners and there appears to be no relief in sight. While the Council has no problem with proper and effective policies and spending which are fair to Co-op's and Condominium owners as compared to single family homeowners, there are still many instances of inequity which need to be addressed in order to spare the Co-op shareholders and Condominium owners unfair expenses.

We have also made a great effort to educate the community leaders about the way Co-ops and Condos are taxed and how their budgets are made so that they can properly consider and advise the community of the effects of their decisions on Co-op's and Condo owners.

The fact that we now represent a major force when it comes to obtaining equal rights for Co-op and Condo Owners should prove to be beneficial for each building that is a member of the Council. Only in numbers is there strength. We have already started to flex our muscles and as our numbers grow we become even stronger. We thank you for your continued support.

"I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale" September 12th

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is unique to Long Island as it has a plethora of apartment buildings with "cliff dwellers" as residents. People who live in these buildings do not have a garage or a driveway that they could use for the "All-American" garage sale. That is the reason for the institution of the "I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale" by the village several years ago.

This service to our residents allows you to empty your closets and shelves of items in good, usable condition that you don't want or need

anymore, and sell them at a community garage sale. It is a way for you to clear out your "stuff" and make some money, and for others to capture your cast-off "treasures." The village contributes the space, the staff and all the newspaper advertising to attract buyers. We often have over 50 families who put out their wares in Parking Lot #1 (opposite Fredrick's) and there is usually a steady stream of customers.

The cost to register is \$5 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. This low registration charge will help defray the

rising advertising costs. Call the village to reserve a spot (ask for Carol Teplin at 482-4500, Ext. 113).

"The rain date for this Garage Sale will be Sunday, October 17, 2004."

Village of Great Neck Plaza

Village Board of Trustee Meetings

Convenes Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

Sept. 1 & 22

Oct. 6 & 20

Nov. 3 & 17

Village Court Dates

Convenes Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Sept. 7, 13 & 21

Sept. 8th Trials

Oct. 5, 12 & 26

Oct. 19th Trials

Nov. 4, 9 & 23

Nov. 16th Trials

WELCOME NEW STORES TO THE PLAZA

Mayor Celender and the Board of Trustees are happy to welcome the following businesses that have opened in the Plaza. Stop in and greet these newcomers and say "hello." They bring vitality, diversity and new life to our community.

If you would like to have a ribbon cutting to celebrate your grand opening, call the village and ask for Carol Teplin. She will help you to coordinate the event and will announce the news to various service clubs in the Great Neck area.

- **Bond Street Business Services**, 14 Grace Avenue (Rear of Fredrick's Luncheonette). Fed Ex shipping center, international and domestic packing and shipping, local pick-ups, FAX's, stamps, money orders, etc.
- **Hinata Restaurant and Bar**, at 6 Bond Street. Delightful new Oriental Fusion restaurant featuring the finest, freshest seafood!
- **Peter's Barber Shop** moved from 3 Cutter Mill Road to 65 Cutter Mill Road.
- **Haru Sushi**, 25 Cutter Mill Road, a varied menu including fresh sushi and lots more!
- **Tommie & Co.**, 10 Grace Avenue, upscale women's and teen's clothing and accessories.
- **Panache Kids**, 8 Grace Avenue, delightfully fashionable kids clothes and everything to go with them!

- **Edna Marshall Realty**, 38 Middle Neck Road offering great deals in homes, apartments, condo's and co-ops!
- **Quiznos Subs**, 11 Great Neck Road; offers toasted subs, home made soups, party trays, salads, dessert trays, kidz meals and delicious "Mini-Meltz."
- **Café Green**, 77 Middle Neck Road, brand new restaurant featuring vegan and vegetarian cooking.
- **Douglas Elliman, Real Estate**; 10 Bond Street, select apartments, homes, condo's and co-ops with a personal touch!!
- **Wise Buys**, 23 South Middle Neck Road, features gifts, school supplies and related items at cut-rate prices!

We would like to honor Playhouse Jewelers at 31A Middle Neck Road who is celebrating **65 Years of Business** in the Plaza.

The owner, Victor Rutzofsky, told us that the business has been in the Plaza for 65 years, but he has owned Playhouse for only 43 years.

Lots of good wishes for continued success to Playhouse, a very fine example of the stability and prosperity of a small store on "Main Street USA."

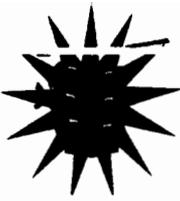
ARTWORK OF MARGARITA FREIDMAN ON DISPLAY

Great Neck resident Margarita Freidman will have her artwork on display in the Courtroom Gallery the first week of September through October for eight weeks.

Born in Mexico, she moved to the US in 1989, is married to Steve, and teaches traditional painting at Cumberland Adult Center in Great Neck. They have three children, youngest is Nathaniel and two older children Tali and Hector who are also artists.

"The body of work on exhibition is the result of two years of studying the human figure and classical techniques. The group of 36 panels is a generational portrait, including all the members of my immediate family, all of whom were alive during the XX century. As a whole they speak of the passage of time, the different stages of life from birth to death, a journey of quotidian defeats and heroic efforts. They are also a reference to our ancestors and descendants, a link to the past and the future. Since it only takes five generations to move back or forward a century, I hope the viewer can feel closer to his own relatives by superimposing them on these small panels," said the artist.

Please join us on Wednesday, Sept. 1 from 7-8 PM for a reception with the artist. Come and meet Margarita and see her fascinating artwork on display.



Traffic Talk with Sheldon Goodman, Ph.D.

Past columns on Traffic and Pedestrian Safety that I have written have typically had a more focused theme e.g., driving while drowsy, use of cell phones etc. I am going to widen the viewing lens at this time by having us consider driving safety in a larger context.

Driving is one of the most complex tasks we are called upon to perform on a routine basis. How good are we at it? This question takes on even greater significance given that driving has become increasingly stressful, dangerous and regrettably for many, a demeaning experience. The increase in threatening behaviors that are being displayed in reality or in fantasy has become an all too familiar part of our lives.

Every year there are over 3 million accidents nationwide which results in over 50,000 deaths and hundreds of thousands of serious injuries. This works out to be about one serious accident per year for every mile of highway pavement. Is this a reasonable record? As there are no control data to compare these figures with it is difficult to say. Since there are 100 million licensed drivers in our country and if each drives on the average 10,000 miles per year, then Americans drive about 1 trillion miles per year. This works out to one accident every 300,000 miles driven. This does not read so badly except if we view this from an absolute perspective. Fifty-two thousand deaths is a frightful number and a national tragedy that is begging for our attention and the need to create an increasing understanding of the psychology of driving to reverse this trend and to seek ways to alter driving styles and improve our, to borrow a phrase from Goleman, emotional intelligence behind the wheel. The acquisition of safe driving habits must continue after we complete our initial instructions of the rules of the road and pass the licensing exam.

In reviewing the traffic accident literature there is a marked lack of consensus as to what constitutes a valid measure of driving safety. The only area of agreement seems to be that involvement in an accident is not, by itself, considered a reliable indicator of "unsafe" driving. One reason for this lack of clarity may be the tendency to confuse the interrelated but distantly different concepts of "legal" and "safe" driving. This confusion, I believe hinders the effectiveness of driver education and potentially perpetuates risky driving behavior.

Legal driving is defined by law, safe driving may be defined as the absence of unusual maneuvers and the non-occurrence of new accidents. Conversely, unsafe/risky driving may be understood as an action or lack thereof on the part of a driver that increases their risk of a collision.

Why don't we acquire safe-driving habits more quickly? One answer may lie in the fact that safety cannot be learned by direct feedback but requires the absorption of accumulated knowledge and the experience of interactions with others. I realize this sentiment is both vague and discouraging. The learning mechanism of absorption doesn't explain how to teach safe driving or even what it is. Secondly, if others with whom drivers interact (especially new drivers) are not themselves safety conscious then patterns of poor driving will be learned and perpetuated.

In a future column we will consider that the demands of the licensing exam may not be demanding enough. Would efforts to change procedures be in vain because risk-taking drivers possess certain traits that would interfere with the critical formation of "safe" habits? I will leave you to consider that we may at times overestimate our driving skills and/or underestimate the safety margin appropriate to the situation. We might hope for relief coming in the form of developing safety protocols that avoid unclear concepts such as driver "attitude". Protocols would need to be factual and stress the positive aspects of each driver's ability to control their own level of safety. If properly and consistently implemented in all relevant areas, ranging from educational curricula and license testing to driver improvement programs, safety protocols could influence the way people think about the role of the driver once seated behind the wheel. And that might be the first step towards improving the way we think about driving.

The best driver is the most attentive- constantly watching traffic, road conditions, driver behavior, external influences such as weather and visibility, the condition of their vehicle and assimilating all this influences how we consider other drivers on the road being people not automobiles and to treat them with civility, empathy, and charity.

(To be continued in the next issue of Plaza Voice)

I would enjoy very much hearing from readers of this column. Let us begin by opening up a dialogue in Great Neck. Would you please contact me at the e-mail address printed below?

Sheldon M. Goodman, Ph.D.
smg4safety@aol.com

Help Us Keep Storm Drains Clean

Village engineers, DPW staff and environmental scientists never know what they'll find when inspecting our approximately 80 storm drains. Recent finds include refuse, construction debris, jewelry, hubcaps, tree limbs, railroad ties — and even old bicycle tires.

The stormwater system is designed to drain rain — and only rain/snow — keeping homes and property safe from flooding during torrential downpours and storm events. Storm drain curb inlets lead straight to neighborhood creeks, inlets and eventually to Little Neck Bay. Stormwater does not go to a treatment facility to be cleaned. So, when people use storm drains as a dumping ground, the results can be disastrous:

Pollution Problems — Dumping oil, paint or other hazardous chemicals into a storm drain pollutes creeks and lakes. The number one pollutant found in storm drains is detergent, which can kill fish and other wildlife.

Drainage Problems — Tree limbs, grass clippings, trash, sand and other debris clog storm drains, causing backups. During heavy rains, these backups cause flooding of streets, homes and businesses.

What should you do?

- Dispose properly of leftover household chemicals to the Town of North Hempstead's household hazardous waste collection program, Stop Throwing Out Pollutants or S.T.O.P. Town Supervisor Jon Kaiman urges residents to take advantage of the S.T.O.P. program. The next drop off day will be Saturday, September 11, 2004 at Michael J. Tully Park on 1801 Evergreen Avenue in New Hyde Park from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The S.T.O.P. program drop-off location gives residents an opportunity to dispose of hazardous household pollutants in a safe and convenient manner. If you have any questions regarding the S.T.O.P. program or would like to obtain a S.T.O.P. brochure, please call the Town of North Hempstead Recycling / S.T.O.P. Hotline at 516-767-4600.
 - Wash your car at a commercial carwash, where dirty water and soap flow to a treatment center. Or, instead of washing your car on the driveway, wash it on the lawn — which acts like a sponge to keep soap, oil and engine grime out of the stormwater system.
- Keep grass clippings, brush or debris away from curb inlets or storm drains. Village regulations require leaves and grass clippings to be bagged, and therefore, cannot be blown or swept onto the sidewalks or streets. The Village dispenses large plastic bags for yard debris in the fall Friday mornings from 9-11AM starting October 1 running into the middle of November. If you see any suspicious activities or the dumping of improper materials into the storm drains, please file an environmental complaint with the Village by calling 482-4500, or by going on-line and filling out an Environmental Complaint Form at www.greatneckplaza.net. The Village will follow up

on all complaints and will notify the proper authorities to investigate and resolve any such concern.

Please do your part to keep household chemicals, yard waste and other debris out of our storm drains. It will help prevent flooding and ensure that our local surface waters remain clean for all of us to enjoy, recreate in and preserve these sensitive habitats and environs.

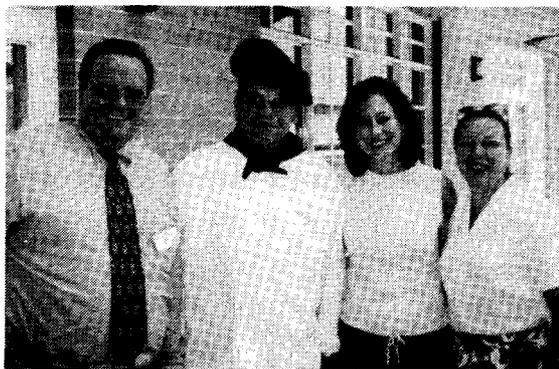
We are currently working on obtaining decals to adhere to the street surface visible in front of the storm drains for promoting greater public awareness to be more being environmentally responsible. We thank Assemblyman Tom DiNapoli and his staff for their assistance in this important environmental issue.



The Atria Presents: "A Taste of Great Neck"

On July 20 the Atria Senior Living Group presented their version of "A Taste of Great Neck." On display were samples of delicious local culinary delights from the following restaurants in celebration of National Culinary Arts Month: Bagel Boss, Inn at Great Neck, Giraffe Room, La Gioconda, Mona Lisa, Poultry Mart, Roly Poly Sandwiches, Santorini My Love, Seed Restaurant, and Yogurteria.

We would like to thank our local restaurants for their generous donations and The Atria for hosting a fabulous special community event.



L to R are: Robert Gutmann, Atria Community Sales Director, Nino Cervi, Atria Chef, Mayor Jean Calender and Housing Commissioner Sheryl De Los Rios.

**VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK
PLAZA**

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**visit our website:
www.greatneckplaza.net**

SAVE THESE DATES:

- Sept. 1st:** Artist Margarita Freidman Exhibit opens with Reception from 7-8 PM in the Courtroom Gallery.
- Sept. 9th:** "Java With Jean" informal breakfast meeting with Mayor Jean Celender from 10-11 AM in Mayors office
- Sept. 12:** "I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale," 9AM to 4PM, Lot #1 on Grace Ave & Bond St (Oct 17th Rain date)
- Sept. 19:** 20th Annual Street Fair and Auto Fest, 12 Noon—5 PM, (Middle Neck Road: Barstow to Cedar)
- Oct. 3rd:** Rotary Club Art Show in Lot #2 (Opposite Fredrick's) from 9am—5 pm (Rain date Oct. 10th)
- Oct. 7th :** "Star Performer Awards Ceremony" 9:30-10:30AM (See page 3 for more details)

BLOOD DRIVE, OCTOBER 27, TRICK OR TREAT...

The Village of Great Neck Plaza, in conjunction with the Lion's, Kiwanis, and Rotary Clubs of Great Neck and the Great Neck Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled to have a Halloween blood drive on Wednesday, October 27, 2004. The hours of collection are from 8:30 AM to 2 PM, will be held in the Village Hall. You are welcome to come in costume; we promise there will be no tricks however, we'll provide plenty of treats!

The blood that is collected is vitally important to distribute to local area hospitals. Based on our successful drive last year at this time, our amount of recommended pledges needed to reach the goal is 75 donors.

Please call the village at 516/482-4500 and let us know a convenient time for you to stop by and donate. We will be open for your arms at 8:30 AM until 1:45 PM. Please call and give the gift of life. It will make you happy you did!

If you were one of the volunteers last year you will remember the event as a truly memorable, "Only in Great Neck" type of blood drive. Donations from area restaurants supply our donors with food for brunch, lunch and coffee breaks. Did we say food? We meant to say "Epicurean gourmet delights" to tempt and satisfy even the most discriminating palates. Did I mention a massage therapist would be on hand to relax you?