



PLAZA VOICE

WINTER/SPRING 2004

VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

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

Co-Op & Condominium Council Update

The Great Neck Co-op & Condo Council met on January 12, 2004 to discuss "Reassessment, What it Means for Co-ops and Condominiums." The meeting began with Stu Hochran, Co-Chair of the Council presenting a Proclamation of Appreciation to Harvey Levinson, newly elected Chairman of the Nassau County Board of Assessors. Hochran told Levinson "Now that Harvey has been elected, chosen by 84% of Great Neck residents and 89% of the residents of Great Neck Plaza, we look forward to his working closely with the opposed and confused Co-op and Condo owners of Nassau County. We hope to create a direct dialogue which will educate and comfort them, and help them to better understand the complexities of living in a complex." Hochran added that he hoped Levinson will petition those necessary in

Albany to free the Co-ops and Condos of the unfairness which exists in the four-class system of taxation in Nassau County since 1982.

After receiving his award, Mr. Levinson addressed Board members from Nassau County Co-ops and Condos who attended the meeting. He told them of the challenges he faces, changes he plans to make in the Assessor's Office and how he was going to try to help all the residents of Nassau County. The manner of taxation of Co-ops and Condos is one of the many areas which he plans to investigate.

The Council's next meeting is scheduled for March 1 in VGNP Village Hall, and the discussion will be



Photo Caption: (From Left to right) Marion Green, Executive Board, Marc Schneider, Legal Advisor, Hon. Harvey Levinson, Chairman, N.C. Board of Assessors, Fern Rogers, Co-Chair, and Stu Hochran, Co-Chair.

"Considerations When Hiring a Superintendent and Other Key Personnel."

For more information, contact the following: Stu Hochran, Co-Chair (516) 466-6443 / stu@hochron.net (e-mail); Fern Rogers, Co-Chair (516) 487-4113; Marc H. Schneider, Esq., Legal Advisor (516) 393-5555 / marc@mhsplaw.com (e-mail).

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New Snow Removal Regulations

The Village recently amended its snow removal law. As you may know, it is the property owner and/or tenant's obligation to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalk adjoining your business or residence. The local law governs exactly how the snow must be removed: Firstly, the owner/occupant of the property shall clear and maintain a four-foot wide path on the sidewalk free of all snow and ice. Secondly, the owner/occupant shall not only clear the sidewalk of snow and ice, but also shall keep the sidewalk free of snow and ice by clearing it as frequently as is necessary. Thirdly, the owner/occupant of a property, which adjoins a sidewalk adjacent to a crosswalk, shall be required to clear and maintain a four-foot wide path free of all snow and ice from the sidewalk to the beginning of the crosswalk of the curb of the street.

The above snow removal law went into effect in early December before the first snowfall and will be strictly enforced by the Village. If you have any questions or want to report any condition where snow/ice needs to be cleaned, please call Joseph Diaz at the Village of Great Neck, Building Department at (516) 482-4500.



We Heard You! Village's New On-Hold Messaging System

Ever been put on hold when you call a business and feel like hanging up, or hate the on-hold music? Approximately 70% of all calls are placed on hold at some time during a business conversation. The Village of Great Neck Plaza, in response to suggestions made to your local government officials, instituted a message-on-hold system to inform callers about the Village and to provide important information regarding Village services.

Our new on-hold messaging system has nine different messages to ensure callers hear a new message if they happen to call multiple times or are put on hold for several minutes. Our on-hold callers receive important and timely information



about the Village and its services in a welcoming and professional manner. The Village constantly strives for excellence through a spirit of openness to change and improve. We hope you agree that we have yet implemented another innovative

service in our efforts to serve you better. Your satisfaction is our primary concern.

Let us know if there is any message that we should include to a caller. We promise to work together to solve any issues that may arise in providing the best government services possible during your call to us. Give us a ring at (516) 482-4500, and ask to be put on hold to listen to our new system.

Memo from the Mayor

Dear Friends:

Recently, the Village Historic Preservation Commission held its first meeting to consider establishing a Bond Street Historic District and the landmarking of the Community Church on Stoner Avenue. This has been a several year process in which the Village first amended its Historic Preservation regulations, which strengthened our preservation ordinance and established a 5-member Historic Preservation Commission. Since that time, the Village conducted a comprehensive survey of historic structures and properties through enlisting the services of a consultant, Nancy Solomon of Long Island Traditions. During the past two years, the Historic Preservation Commission has held a number of public meetings to present the findings of our consultant and to solicit comments on the 53 potential properties identified in her report as eligible historic resources.

In addition, the Village applied and received from the state "Certified Local Government," or CLG status, under the state's program. In order to be eligible for CLG status, which enables these municipalities to be eligible to apply for historic grant monies, a municipality must adopt regulations conforming to the

state's model preservation legislation, have an active, professionally qualified Preservation Commission and establish standards and procedures for evaluating and approving an application to the Village for renovating or altering the exterior of a landmarked building. I am pleased to announce that not only were we approved for CLG status, completed the necessary agreements with the state to formalize our certification, and were awarded a CLG grant for the training of our Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission completed three training workshops during the fall of 2003 to review their roles and responsibilities and to develop procedures for administering buildings designated under the historic preservation law.

I am pleased to announce that we were approved for Certified Local Government status with New York State (for preserving historic structures and sites). We not only executed the necessary agreements with New York State to formalize our certification, but applied for and was awarded our first CLG grant for Commission training sessions."

Second, we recently were awarded a \$10,000 grant by Nassau County under the leadership of our County Legislator, Lisanne Altmann for a local village project.

The project we will complete with this grant money will entail sidewalk construction and lighting on the east side of St. Paul's Place.

In terms of updates on existing projects, we are continuing with finalizing the conceptual design plans for the traffic calming initiatives in Year 2 of a New York State grant entitled "Local Safe Streets and Traffic Calming" program. We will soon be announcing a special meeting, wherein our traffic consultant, L.K. McLean Associates, will make a presentation on the components of the grant for \$540,000 in improvements for the reconstruction of Great Neck Road. We have been coordinating our efforts with Nassau County, who has jurisdiction on this road, and with the Town of North Hempstead, in which the western portion of this road is located from Cuttermill Park to Bayview Avenue. Similar to the Barstow Road roundabout, this initiative is aimed at slowing traffic, alleviating traffic congestion, enhancing pedestrian and traffic safety, and generally providing for improved, safer streets. Look for future updates as we progress on this second important transportation grant!

Jean A. Celender, Mayor

"ONLY DON'T KNOW" Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting

Located in the heart of the shopping district in the Plaza, on Bond Street, "Only Don't Know," a teahouse restaurant and retail store opened their doors for a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting" on January 8th. Members of the community, VGNP board members and Great Neck Chamber of Commerce officers participated in the celebration and were hosted by owner, Sue Yu.

Upon entering, one cannot help noticing a different concept in restaurant dining and menu presentation. The space is a large, open room with beautiful ceramic tea sets and earthenware lining the walls, which are available for purchase. The menu is attractively displayed in a hand-made rice paper menu offering many varieties of green tea, herbal teas and house-made teas. They also serve desserts, such as Korean cookies and other delectables.

"Only Don't Know" is an earthy place to bring a book, laptop or friend, to relax while sipping intoxicating, exotic tea brews. Fair warning, Sue's warm hospitality and charm and her quirky teas are addictive. It will make this new restaurant a sure-fire hit! It's a charming little teahouse. They also sell some unusual tea sets, ceramic pieces and of course, a wide selection of exotic teas.



Photo Caption: Joining Mayor Jean Celender and Owner, Sue Yu, at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony were (from Left to Right): Elliot Rosenblatt,, unidentified woman, Phil Races, Sabina Miller, Mayor Celender, Sue Yu, Trustee Jay Ferkin and Carol Teplin.

Say hello to owner Sue and sample the interesting herbal teas, pastries and snack food that satisfies those looking for an exotic escape and healthy fare.

Mayor Celender Visits Sister City, Tiberias in January

Mayor Jean Celender was asked by the newly elected (October, 2003) Mayor of the City of Tiberias, Mayor Zohar Oved, our Sister City in Israel, to be a guest of the city for several days at the end of January, 2004.

While in Tiberias, Mayor Celender was invited to participate at a business meeting of local key leaders, was introduced and spoke at a City Council meeting about the history of the village, her own personal involvement in the Sister Cities affiliation and then went on to describe some of the current and future planned projects between our two municipalities as Sister Cities.

Prior to leaving for Tiberias, Mayor Celender visited with residents at The Atria who expressed a desire to be pen pals with seniors at the Beit Hakashish Senior Day Care Center in Tiberias. Mayor Celender is pleased to report that the Beit Hakashish seniors were delighted to start corresponding with their friends in Great Neck and are looking forward to getting to know each other better. They especially liked the idea of sharing locally prepared foods and recipes.

So let's start cooking and anyone who can write in Hebrew would be welcomed to participate in the program and help translate for us. Please contact the Mayor's Office to volunteer on the Sister Cities program.



Pictured here in the back row standing are (left to right): Atria Director Bibiana Stehly, Mayor Jean Celender and Building Captain Anne Falk with residents from The Atria bidding Mayor Celender a "bon voyage" to Tiberias, Israel.

Preparing For An Emergency or Disaster

“Important Item to Have in Advance”

During these Winter months with snow storms and nor'easters, residents are reminded that natural events can occur and it's important to be prepared for such emergencies. Below are a list of important items to remember and be prepared for in advance of a storm, natural event or a potential disaster or emergency occurring as recommended by emergency management experts:

A. “HOME EMERGENCY PLAN”

Every family should develop a **Home Emergency Plan**. What is a Home Emergency Plan? It's a plan that household members make together for how to find each other and how to communicate in an emergency. Here are some helpful guidelines:

- Decide where your household will reunite after a disaster. Identify two places to meet: one right outside your home and another outside your neighborhood, such as a library, community center or place of worship.
- Make sure everyone knows the address and phone number of your second meeting place.
- Know and practice all possible exit routes from your home and neighborhood.
- Designate an out-of-state friend or relative that household members can call, if separated during a disaster. If Nassau County phone circuits are busy, this out-of-state contact can be an important way of communication between household members. When local phone circuits are busy, long distance calls may be easier to make.
- Account for everybody's needs, especially seniors, people with disabilities and non-English speakers.
- Practice your plan with all household members.
- Ensure that household members have a copy of your Home Emergency Plan to keep in their wallets and backpacks.

B. “GO BAG”

Every household should have a **“Go Bag”**, or a collection of items you may need in the event of an emergency requiring evacuation, such as a flood, nuclear disaster, etc. Each household member's Go Bag should be packed in a sturdy, easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or suitcase on wheels. A Go Bag should be easily accessible if you have to leave your home in a hurry. Make sure it is ready to go at all times of the year. Here are some items that you may choose to include in your family's Go Bag:

- Copies of your important documents in a waterproof and portable container (insurance cards, birth certificates, deeds, photo ID's, etc)
- Extra set of car and house keys.
- Credit and ATM cards and cash, especially in small denominations. We recommend you keep at least \$50 - \$100 on hand.
- Bottled water and non-perishable food, such as energy or granola bars.
- Flashlight, battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries. You can also buy wind-up radios that do not require batteries at retail stores.
- Medication for at least one week and other essential personal items. Be sure to change medications before they expire. Keep a list of the medications each member takes and their dosages and copies of all your prescription slips.
- First-aid kit.
- Sturdy, comfortable shoes, lightweight raingear and a mylar blanket.
- Contact and meeting place information for your household and a small regional map.
- Child care supplies and other special care items, such as pet supplies if you have pets.





Disaster Planning (cont'd)

C. "EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT"

Every household should keep enough supplies in your home to survive on your own for at least three days. If possible, keep these materials in an easily accessible, separate container or special cupboard. You should indicate to your household members that these supplies are for emergencies only. Here are some items that you may choose to include in your family's

Emergency Supply Kit:

- One gallon of drinking water per person per day.
- Non-perishable, ready-to-eat canned foods and manual can opener.
- First-aid kit, medications and prescriptions.
- Flashlight, battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries.
- Whistle
- One quart of unscented bleach or iodine tablets (for disinfecting water ONLY if directed to do so by health officials) and eyedropper (for adding bleach to water).
- Personal hygiene items: soap, feminine hygiene products, toothbrush and toothpaste, etc.
- Sturdy shoes, heavy gloves, warm clothes, a mylar blanket and lightweight raingear.
- Extra fire extinguisher, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors.
- Child care supplies or other special care items.
- Other supplies and tools.

From the Editors - Correction From Previous Newsletter

Oops! We goofed. In the last newsletter, Plaza Voice, Winter 2003, it was incorrectly printed that the Village has two assisted care facilities in the Plaza. We wish to clarify that we have one assisted care facility for seniors, The Atria, at 51 Great Neck Road. The Sterling Glen, at 96 Cuttermill Road, is an independent living residence for senior citizens. We apologize for this oversight and want to set the record straight. If you have questions regarding any of the material reported on in this newsletter, please contact the editors, Carol Teplin or Gail Grove, at Village Hall 482-4500 and we will be glad to provide answers and/or further explanation.

"I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale" May 16th, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

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 our their wares in Parking

Lot #1 opposite Fredrick's and a steady stream of customers.

The cost to register is \$5 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. This low charge helps to defray the rising advertising costs. Please call the village to reserve a spot at (516) 482-4500. Rain date: May 23rd.



VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

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EVERY VOTE COUNTS...VILLAGE ELECTIONS, MARCH 16TH

Are you prepared to cast your vote on Tuesday, March 16th in the village elections? Remember...every vote counts! On Tuesday, March 16th, from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. at Village Hall, 2 Gussack Plaza, the following elected offices will be decided in VGNP elections:

- **Mayor** for a two-year term,
- **Two Trustees**, each for a two-year term, and
- **Village Justice**, for a four-year term.

While it is too late to register for this upcoming election, you can always register now for the November presidential election. Take steps to get registered if you are not currently registered. A

voter registration form is available on-line at the village web site. Log on to www.greatneckplaza.net and go to "Application Forms." Copies are also available at the front desk at Village Hall for your convenience.

Our Village Hall is centrally located and is handicapped accessible. Furthermore, we will bag meters and designate convenient parking spaces for voters to enable easy access to the polls in the municipal lot across the street from Village Hall on election day.

Person's that require handicap access can make use of voting at

Village Hall or can request an absentee ballot.

1. Requests for an absentee ballot to be mailed for the March 16th village elections, can be made up until March 9th to Patricia O'Byrne, Village Clerk-Treasurer at Great Neck Plaza Village Hall (482-4500) or through the Nassau County Board of Elections (571-2411).
2. The Village Hall polling hours for March 16th are from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.
3. Residents who need a ride to the polls, please call 482-3879 to request a ride.

