



PLAZA VOICE

FALL 2005

VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

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

21st ANNUAL STREET FAIR, ANTIQUE FAIR & AUTOFEST SEPTEMBER 25TH, AT NOON

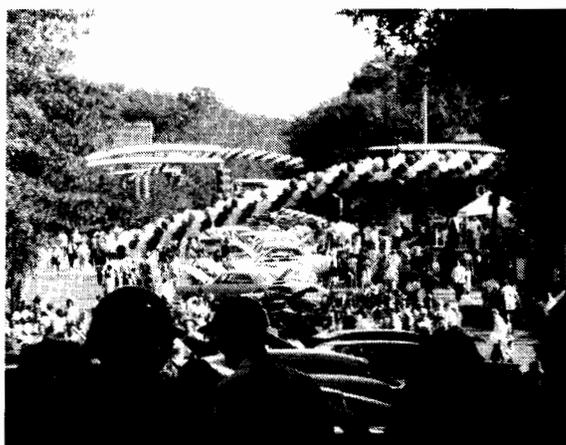
The Village of Great Neck Plaza and the Business Improvement District (B.I.D.) are busy coordinating activities for their 21st Annual Street Festival. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 25th, 2005; 12 Noon - 5 PM, with a rain date of Sunday, October 9th. Crowds are expected to reach 35-40,000! "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."

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 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!



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, for their continued support of this community and family event.

This year we are happy to announce the return of our Antique Fair, which will run the entire length of Bond Street. 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, hay rides, a petting zoo and pony rides for the children, demonstrations by the Vigilant Fire Department, Tiger Schulman Karate, The Great Neck Arts Center dance students, four pie eating contests, and much, much more!



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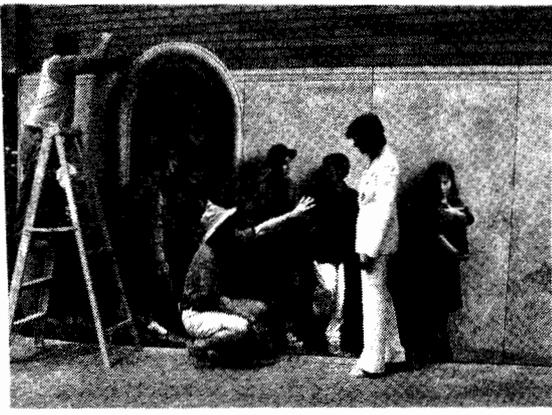
Register for Pie Eating Contest

There will be 4 Pie Eating Contests: two at 1:30 PM and two at 3:30 PM. The categories for each of the contests are 6-12 years old and 13 to 18 years old. You must be pre-registered to participate. Please call 482-4500 and ask for Carol Teplin to register.

Dear Friends,

I hope you have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. We recently completed another successful summer concert series. We hope you were able to participate and enjoy the wonderful performances and different musical groups we provided under the stars at Jon's Park on Grace Avenue. Our thanks to our terrific community-minded businesses that sponsored the weekly performances, and those that provided free ice cream and other treats for you to enjoy on the warm summer nights. Kudos to our Program Coordinator, Carol Teplin, Tony Ventiera, our sound man, and our DPW employees and Great Neck Park District Commissioners and staff that made sure the gazebo stage and lighting was ready, that there were plenty of chairs and everything operated and ran smoothly to bring you this concert series.

We are proud to have launched our first Trompe L'oeil mural, *A Handful of Keys*, which was installed in July on the façade of the corner building at Middle Neck Road and Maple Drive near Daruma Restaurant. This has been a two-year work in progress to bring beautiful public art to grace our streetscapes, encourage additional foot traffic and visitors to the CBD and revitalize our downtown. This village project looks to transform plain walls into museum quality Trompe L'oeil paintings. The mural, by artist William Cochran, features six life-size, full figure portraits of Great Neck children. One of the children is our local celebrity, Sarah Hughes, Olympic medal figure skater, as a young child around age 4. We are pleased that Sarah is serving as Honorary Chairperson of the Great Neck Public Art Committee. This committee is assisting me and the Board of Trustees in implementing and fundraising for this program, in order to provide for this public art construction not at taxpayer expense, but through corporate and private donations. Since its inception, Sarah has been so enthusiastic about the mural program. When we looked to include local Great Neck children to tell the story of Great Neck, she was anxious to get involved and be a part of the first design, which we are dedicating to the children of Great Neck. Sarah Hughes truly supports and loves the community of Great Neck and always proudly announces her hometown in interviews. Our thanks to Sarah for her support and doesn't she look adorable in the mural?



We are still looking to reach our 100% goal and raise all of the mural funds from donations. Funds received over the amount needed to complete this first mural will be allocated to the public art program to continue the series. Major donors of \$1,000 or more will also be listed on a bronze plaque to be installed at the mural site. Once this first mural is funded, the plaque for it will be closed, and it will be a permanent record to highlight the early visionaries of this important community project. In the fall we will announce the formal dedication ceremony and plaque installation. All donations to *A Handful of Keys* will be accepted by the Village of Great Neck Plaza, held in a segregated capital fund, and are 100% tax deductible. Anyone interested in helping to support *A Handful of Keys* and the mural program, should contact me or Carol Teplin at Village Hall, at 516-482-4500.

The longevity and quality of this artwork makes it an incredible opportunity for the community to invest in public art and reap the benefits of the project's cultural, social and economic benefits. This artwork for Great Neck is an unprecedented quality of public art and from the initial response we have received, it seems everyone is enjoying it and it is a welcomed addition to the downtown. I have visited other cities with public art, but I feel Great Neck has a unique attractiveness and appeal to our downtown that no other community can boast. I welcome you to take a stroll by the mural and see if it "fools" you into thinking that there are six children standing there waiting to enter the building.

We are currently planning our 21st annual AutoFest, Antique and Street Festival, which stands to be another wonderful "Great Event." Started in the '80s by our late Mayor Allan Gussack, it has become a fun-filled family day that attracts thousands and is our way to give back to the community for supporting our local merchants, establishments and downtown throughout the year. There will be four wonderful bands and lots of entertainment and activities to make it a fun day. I hope to see you at the Street Festival and come enjoy a dance in the Plaza streets with me!

Jean A. Celender, Mayor

On July 20, 2005 the Village Board of Trustees voted to designate the Long Island Rail Road station and Chase Manhattan Bank as historic landmarks. The LIRR station was built in 1924 and the Chase Manhattan Bank was constructed in 1961. The bank was the first suburban branch created by a New York City-based financial institution in the state. The architect was Benjamin Thompson, who was part of The Architects Collaborative founded by Walter Gropius. The bank reflected new concepts of how financial institutions should look. Notable features included its open floor plan, clerestory windows, and architect designed furniture.

Soon to be released will be guidelines for owners of land-marked properties on how to preserve their historic structures. The guidelines are being published by the Village under a grant received from the National Park Service's Certified Local Government program, administered by the NY State Historic Preservation Office.

Newly revised versions of the Village's walking tour publications are now available through the Village's web site. Come visit the site at www.greatneckplaza.net.

"Ditty Doodle Works" Films in the Plaza

The cast and crew of the children's program, "Ditty Doodle Works," a TV show on WLIW, Channel 21, decided to shoot a segment in the Plaza. They asked Mayor Celender if she would participate and gave her some dialogue to memorize. "It was great fun and I enjoyed every moment of "acting" with the puppets and the actors," said the mayor.



Free NassauRx Prescription Discount Card

The Village is pleased to announce an innovative program introduced by Nassau County Controller, Howard Weitzman, which provides a free discount prescription card for you and your family to use. You can use the NassauRx card to save money on your prescriptions, regardless of your age, income level or current level of insurance coverage. The card is active and you can save an average of 24% off the retail price of each prescription. The card is free and requires no enrollment forms. You simply pick up the card at Village Hall and present it when purchasing prescription drugs at your pharmacy. It is accepted at more than 90% of Nassau pharmacies and at 54,000 drugstores across the country (perfect if you are traveling).

Even if you have prescription drug coverage, you may still use the card to get substantial discounts on drugs that your plan does not cover although it cannot be used to reduce an insurance co-pay. In addition to the NassauRx card, we have a brochure that explains the program in detail. Come to the village and pick up both free at the front desk.

"Star Performer" Nomination Form

The next scheduled "Star Performer" Ceremony will be on Thursday, October 6th 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: _____

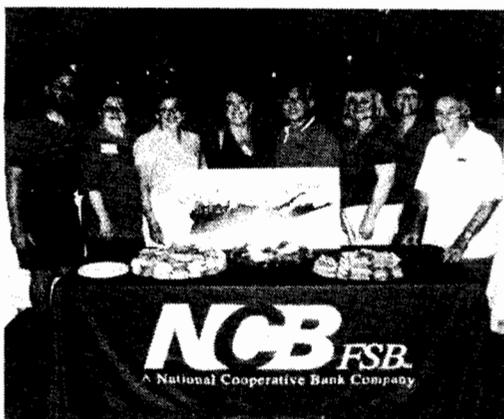
My name & phone number: _____

Send this form to VGNP, Carol Teplin, 2 Gussack Plaza,
PO Box 440, GN NY 11022

Co-Op & Condo Council

The Great Neck Co-op and Condominium Council held its 4th annual picnic on Monday, July 11, 2005 in the Jonathan Ielpi Fire Fighter's Park (formerly known as Grace Avenue Park) which was sponsored by National Cooperative Bank (NCB). The event was well attended by Board Members representing over 60 Co-ops and Condos who enjoyed beautiful weather, a fabulous setting in the park, delicious food from the Kensington Kosher Deli, mouth-watering pastries from the local Waldbaum's and some terrific gifts courtesy of NCB. Mindy Goldstein of NCB was on hand for the festivities.

The next scheduled meeting of the Co-op & Condo Council will be on Monday September 12, 2005 at 7:30 PM in Great Neck Plaza Village Hall when we will be discussing "Permits required by local municipalities when doing renovations to your co-op or condo unit". We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. For more information, please contact the following: Stu Hochron, Co-Chair 466-6443, stu@hochron.net, Fern Rogers, Co-Chair 487-4113, Marc Schneider, 393-5555.



Marc Schneider,
Fern Rogers;
Marion Green;
Mindy Goldstein;
Stu Hochron;
Joan Evans; Enid
Howard, and
Gerry Kahn.

VILLAGE JOINS WITH NASSAU COUNTY TO PROVIDE FLU SHOTS TO RESIDENTS

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is participating in the Nassau County Senior Citizen Influenza Immunization Program to protect seniors, especially the frail and at-risk elderly, from complications associated with influenza. We will be offering this valuable service with no out-of-pocket expense to seniors 60 years and older (Medicare will be billed) on Thursday, November 17th during the hours of 2:30—5:30 PM. Pneumonia vaccines will also be offered at this time.

Three agencies will join together with the Village to accomplish this goal; the Department of Senior Citizen Affairs, the Department of Health and Nassau County Medical Center.

Pre-registration will be required. Please come to the village any weekday between 9:30 AM and 4:30 PM to pick up your medical consent forms in advance.

"I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale" September 11th

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. The date for this event is Sunday, September 11 with a raindate of September 18th.

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 date for this event is Sunday, September 11 with a raindate of September 18th. 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).

Village of Great Neck Plaza

Village Board of Trustee Meetings

Convenes Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

Sept. 7 & 21

Oct. 5 & 19

Nov. 2 & 16

Dec. 7 & 21

Village Court Dates

Convenes Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Sept. 6, 12 (Monday) & 27

Sept. 20th Trials

Oct. 6 (Thursday), 11 & 25

Oct. 18th Trials

Nov. 1, 7 (Monday) & 22

Nov. 15th Trials

NEW STORES IN THE PLAZA

The Village is 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.

- B.O.G. Food Market, 4 Welwyn Road, the newest supermarket in the Plaza, for all your grocery needs
- Cortina Shoes, 37 Middle Neck Road, stylish shoes imported from Italy, trendy designer footwear
- Stonehenge, 25 Cutter Mill Road. Custom cut beautiful marble and ceramic tile.
- Drug USA, So. Middle Neck Road, full service pharmacy to serve your every medical need
- Chum Thai, 111 Middle Neck Road, Delicious Thai cuisine beautifully decorated restaurant
- Talass, 11 Cutter Mill Road, spectacular ladies dress shop, moved to this new location.
- Fresh Fruit Bouquet Company, 12 Bond Street, Beautiful bouquets of fruit, delivery service available
- Thomas Cole Salon, 44 Great Neck Road, up-scale hair salon with a continental twist!
- La Rotunda, 12 Bond Street, wonderful Italian restaurant, not just pizza! Now under new ownership.
- Cold Stone Creamery, 14 Grace Avenue. The same great product, now under new ownership!

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.

VGNP RIBBON CUTTINGS



Stonehenge Marble was host to members of the community at their Grand Opening this summer.



The beautiful day and the lush surroundings made the ribbon cutting at the newest rental apartment complex in the Plaza, at 38 Knightsbridge Road, even more special. The community joined the Musso family and Mayor Celender and VGNP trustees in the official Ribbon Cuttings ceremony. Victor Musso dedicated the day to his wonderful parents who were beaming with pride as everyone cheered when the ribbon was officially cut.

Village Honors Contest Winners

At a Board of Trustees meeting this summer, Mayor Jean Celender welcomed the winners of two recent contests that were run in the Plaza Voice. Each winner was given a proclamation, congratulations and a prize from the Mayor.

Winner of the "Name the Giraffe" contest was Linda Mass for her entry: "Stretch!"

The "Why I Like Living in the Plaza" contest winners are:

1. Ellen Hochberg
2. Natalie Karp
3. Jennifer Minkowitz

The Mayor would like to thank the following merchants for providing gifts to our winners, treats at our concerts in the park and Star Performer breakfasts:

The Inn at Great Neck, The Squire Theater, Daruma, Favor Nails, La Gioconda, Kama, Haagen Dazs, Cold Stone Creamery, Pancho's Border Grill, Best Bagel, Waldbaum's and Dunkin Donuts.

Pictured here from left to right are winners:

Linda Mass, Natalie Karp and Jennifer Minkowitz with Mayor Celender. Missing from the photo is Ellen Hochberg.



PLAZA WINS SMART GROWTH AWARD

By Trustee Jay Ferkin

The Village of Great Neck Plaza was pleased to be the recipient of a coveted Smart Growth Award from Vision Long Island, a non-profit organization working toward the creation of smart growth communities. The Village was honored, along with a dozen other Long Island communities, for advancing Smart Growth projects, policies and initiatives. Great Neck Plaza was recognized for creating walkable neighborhoods through its innovative traffic calming program to address pedestrian safety and walkability in the heart of Great Neck. The multi-project program seeks to calm traffic, enhance the visibility of pedestrians to approaching motorists, and provide improved, safe cross-walk usage. Funding for these projects is derived largely from New York State Department of Transportation's "Local Safe Streets and Traffic Calming" grants and local village matching funds. Completed improvements include a roundabout immediately adjacent to the Great Neck LIRR station, clearly-identified pedestrian crossings and refuges, speed awareness devices, illuminated pedestrian crossing signs, and handi-capped-accessible sidewalk ramps.

The Village recently secured its third NYSDOT traffic calming grant, which it will utilize to install "bulb-outs" on Bond Street for serving to slow vehicles entering the roadway in both directions, shorten crossing distances for pedestrians, and provide additional cues to motorists that they are entering an area with high pedestrian activity.

The most ambitious portion of the Village's program is a road narrowing project proposed in its second grant for Great Neck Road. Though similar "road diet" measures taken in other parts of the country have been highly successful, many in this area are concerned that removing a travel lane, while making things safer for pedestrians, might have the potential for increased traffic congestion and delay. The Village's consultant has addressed this in their traffic studies and feel that existing and projected traffic volumes can be accommodated in one lane without causing any congestion or capacity problems. However, the Village will continue to review and assess traffic projections and make refinements while continuing to solicit and respond to public comments on this traffic calming proposal.

(Continued on Page Seven)

LAZAR'S CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

SMART GROWTH AWARD

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE SIX)

We are pleased to honor Lazar's Chocolate at 72 Middle Neck Road as they celebrate Thirty Years of Business in the Plaza. The owner, Richard Lazar, attributes his business's longevity to a great tasting product! "We consider the taste of our chocolate the best in the world. We have never altered the original recipe that Grandpa David Lazar developed when he brought his secret recipe from Europe to downtown Manhattan where he founded Eee-Laine Chocolates of Cortland Street seventy years ago. We taste everything we make and we either initiate or follow the "chocolate trends." For example, we are the first chocolate specialty store to make personal chocolate bars while you wait, with your photo and personal message right on the wrapper. The store in Great Neck is our "corporate office" and even though we have two other stores, you will find either me or one of my two sons in the store every day. This is truly a "pop and pop" store!"

Another factor that adds to the appeal of Lazar's Chocolate is the customer service they provide in the store. They pride themselves on producing a quality product for all seasons and all occasions, from their trademark chocolate covered nut clusters to their delectable diabetic truffles, if you have a sweet tooth, you will fill it here! If you require shipping or delivery, they make that service available to you as well.

This reporter had a difficult time watching the manufacturing of their walnut clusters in the production area of the store. As Richard and his son Marc supervised, son Jeff was running the machine and hand coating the walnuts with the melted dark chocolate. They looked and smelled so delicious that it took all the self control I could muster to keep my hands at my side and leave the store without snitching one! We send good wishes for continued sweet success to Lazar's Chocolate, a very fine example of the stability and prosperity of a small "mom and pop" store on "Main Street USA."

Lazar's is helping the village by selling Mural chocolate bars at their store for \$10 each. Fifty percent of the proceeds are being donated to the Village for the Trompe L'oeil Mural program, so stock up now for the holidays and as gifts. Everyone loves chocolate and what a great way to help support our village's mural program.



The Village takes pride in its traffic calming program - innovative and comprehensive in its approach to creating more walkable neighborhoods. Our program is clearly a model for the rest of Long Island.

Small in size geographically - only one-third of a square mile - the Village is a diverse, walkable, vibrant place and a well-organized mixture of residential, commercial retail stores and service shops, office buildings, parks, a nursing home, a senior independent- living facility and a senior assisted-care facility

Moreover, the Village has continually supported its Main Street revitalization by installing brick sidewalks, decorative street lighting fixtures and antique clocks, attractive wooden "welcome" signs and gazebos, as well as by expending a great deal of attention and effort on downtown beautification, cleanliness and planting of additional greenery. Many small pocket park areas with benches and plantings have been created; our sidewalks have clay pots with bushes and seasonal plantings, and flowering baskets hang from our street lights.

The Village has actively supported historic preservation through the establishment of an Historic Preservation Commission and the designation of local landmarks, a list that currently includes ten buildings and is growing each year. In fact, the Village was recently designated as a "Preserve America" community, the first on Long Island, for its preservation efforts.

At the same time, going forward, the Mayor and Board of Trustees have instituted a moratorium on new multiple-family residential construction in the C-2 district until legislation can be devised that will regulate development of new apartment units by providing an incentive package to build affordable units as part of an overall development proposal. The Village feels that the critical shortage of affordable housing units for its workforce, next-generation professionals and seniors is an important issue requiring legislative action.

Stay tuned for more about the Village's Smart Growth plans for the future.

**VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK
PLAZA**

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

SAVE THESE DATES:

- Sept. 11: "I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale," 9AM to 4PM, Lot #1 on Grace Ave & Bond St (Sept. 18th Raindate)
Sept. 25: 21st Annual Street Fair and Auto Fest, 12 Noon—5 PM, (Middle Neck Road: Barstow to Cedar)
Oct. 6th : "Star Performer Awards Ceremony" 9:30-10:30AM (See page 3 for more details)
Oct. 26th: Village of Great Neck Plaza/Rotary/Chamber/Lions/Kiwanis Community Blood Drive 8:30 AM- 2 PM
November 17th, Flu Shots being given at Village Hall from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM at no cost to you!
FREE NassauRx Prescription Discount Cards available at the Village Hall front desk!

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE, OCTOBER 26

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 26, 2005. The hours of collection are from 8:30 AM to 2 PM, will be held in the Village Hall.

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.