



# PLAZA VOICE

Spring 2005

## VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

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Ted Rosen

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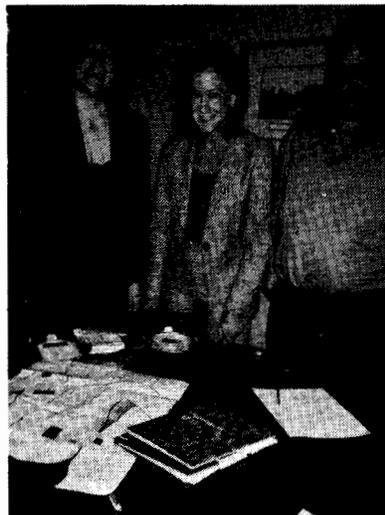
## VILLAGE BUYS AED MACHINE THAT SAVES LIVES

Recognizing that every two minutes someone in this country goes into sudden cardiac arrest, a grave medical emergency, the Village Board of Trustees recently authorized the purchase of an automated external defibrillator (AED) for installation outside the courtroom in Village Hall. The AED is being purchased through the Rotary Club of Great Neck. Mayor Celender applauds this caring program that Rotary has initiated and was anxious to partner with Rotary since they will write a grant to Rotary International to leverage these funds fifty percent which will go to the purchase of additional AEDs in the community.

AEDs are compact, portable, battery-operated versions of the kind used in hospital emergency rooms and in ambulances to stabilize heart rhythm. These remarkable medical devices, around since the early 1980's, had been restricted to first responders, or emergency medical technicians and fire and police departments. But the newest AEDs are less expensive, simpler to operate and are now being found in more public places. The AED is so inexpensive, less than \$1,500, that it should be standard equipment in office buildings, shopping malls and retail strips, village halls and other places of public assembly.

The Village will install the device and obtain certification as a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) for use of the device on village premises by anyone. Since 1998, the New York Public Health Law (Article 30) has afforded an AED provider, which is certified as a PAD, protection from liability for use of the device by voluntary users who render first aid or emergency treatment at the scene of an accident or medical emergency. It is hoped that AEDs will become commonplace as first-aid kits and fire extinguishers. The Great Neck Park District, PAL and the Great Neck Public Schools have also been implementing programs to purchase and make AEDs available in schools, at ball fields and playground sites as children can go into cardiac arrest when hit accidentally with a baseball or soccer ball. AEDs now come equipped with two sets of pads, adult and child, to vary the shock to an appropriate dosage based on weight.

The AED that the Village is purchasing, a Philips "HeadStart" defibrillator, is a "smart" device since it has voice instructions, including CPR instructions to coach the appropriate treatment for a victim. This ease-of-use device will allow defibrillation quickly to a victim, and according to the American Heart Association, "the earlier you defibrillate, the better." States Mayor Celender, "Thanks to the Rotary Club of Great Neck and their leadership on this AED program, sudden cardiac arrest does not have to result in death. While we hope that we wouldn't have to regularly use the machine, if we do, this machine works miracles, and someone will get a second chance at life."



Pictured at right are Mindy Baldinger, of G.E. Pickering, supplier of AED's, Mayor Jean Celender and Roger Chizever of Rotary Club of Great Neck,

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**Village Elections  
For Two Trustees  
Tuesday,  
March 15th from 9  
am to 9 pm  
In Village Hall**

# Message from the Mayor

Dear Neighbors:

It's been a long, cold and snowy winter. We will all be happy to see signs of spring; warmer weather, blooming trees and longer sun-filled days. One of the most important responsibilities and challenging tasks facing our Department of Public Works during the winter season is keeping the Village roadways and sidewalks safe and accessible during and after a winter storm. This is accomplished in two phases. First, we spread salt and sand to minimize icing and to increase traction. Second, we plow and continue clearing snow in multiple rounds until the storm is over. We continue to plow and days later we are still "cutting" areas along streets and sidewalks, and in our public parking lots to clear snow close to curbs to make our public facilities as accessible as possible.

We know this is a frustrating time for our residents, especially if you park on the street and wonder whether there is any solution for where to park your car during a snowstorm. For snowstorms with 4 inches or more of accumulation, residents with a valid VGNP Street Permit may park their vehicle in either one of the village's two structured parking garages at Gussack Plaza and Maple Drive, even if you don't purchase a quarterly garage permit. However, we want to remind you of our parking policy, which provides for a suspension of issuing tickets in the garages for 24 hours following the cessation of the storm. If you have parked your car in our garage, your vehicle will have to be moved back to the street by the suspension time, or you may risk getting a ticket once enforcement starts up again after a storm.

We encourage our residents who do not have an indoor parking spot to park in our garages and to leave the

parking lanes on Middle Neck Road and the main arteries free of obstacles. In this way, the County (Middle Neck Road, Grace Avenue, Great Neck Road, Grace Avenue and Cutter ill Road) and the Village will be able to clear these parking lanes and remove snow better. The efficient removal of snow helps everybody and results in the loss of fewer parking spaces due to snow. Everyone will have a better opportunity to find a parking space and it aids clean up efforts. Merchants appreciate this too, since clean parking lanes mean shoppers will be able to find street parking easier after a storm event, and there are fewer snow piles around the parking boxes.

We also realize it is frustrating to get "plowed in" by a Village or County plow after you have cleared your driveway or sidewalk of snow. We remind you not to shovel snow back onto the street but to put it on your own property. Please don't throw or shovel snow back onto the road, for it reacts with the salt and sand, melts and freezes up, creating a dangerous icing condition. Not only is this not advised, it is unlawful according to the Village Code.

Residents are reminded of their responsibility for the removal of snow around fire hydrants so that access to them shall be provided for the fire department and Water Authority at all times, to provide easy access for water supply and ready recognition in the event of any emergency. We ask that everyone do his or her part to assist the village and cooperate in these efforts.

I am also pleased to announce that Great Neck Plaza has been designated as a *Preserve America* community. This distinction honors the terrific work of our Historic Preservation Commission in preserving our historic resources. It is a wonderful achievement and gives recognition of the efforts to

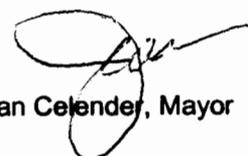
honor our village's past and inspire and educate for the future.



We will soon be erecting bronze historical plaques (pictured above) for the eight buildings designated locally as historical landmarks. We would like to thank Nancy Solomon of Long Island Traditions for her dedicated service as historic consultant to the Historic Preservation Commission. Her successful grant writing for the village has enabled us to do Commission training, create historic walking brochures and maps, be designated as a Preserve America community, and soon we will be preparing a guide for historic property owners. Nancy and the Historic Preservation Commission help set a great example for other villages to follow.

The Town of North Hempstead is hosting a "Town Hall" meeting on the proposed main library expansion on March 14th at 7 P.M. at the Great Neck South High School. We urge all residents to attend this meeting and learn about what is being proposed by the Library District. The library is an important community resource, and the Board of Trustees and I are interested in hearing from you on this matter. Please attend the meeting to get informed, and let us know your views on the subject.

I hope to see you in the spring,

  
Jean Celender, Mayor

# Plaza Welcomes New Businesses

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

- Holiday Isle, 27B Great Neck Road (in Gardens of G.N.) Live music and entertainment,

piano lounge, delectable desserts!

- Mona Lisa Italian Restaurant, fine food and ambiance. Visit them at 41 Great Neck Road for a treat!
- Camp and Campus, moving from Bond Street to 42 Middle Neck Road after many successful years.

- T. Mobile, 5 North Station Plaza, come see what's new in phones!
- The Auction Store, 81 Cutter Mill Road. Let them sell your unwanted treasures on e-bay!
- Custom Framing, 23 South Middle Neck Road. Picture frames made to order and fine art work.

## Village Receives Historic Preservation Grant

On February 1, 2005 the NY State Historic Preservation Office announced that the Village of Great Neck Plaza has been awarded a \$5,000 CLG grant from New York State. This was one of the 3 grants awarded to Long Island communities who have Certified Local Government programs dedicated to preserving their historic sites. Mayor Celender commented, "The CLG grant will assist us in furthering historic preservation in our village. The grant involves preparing guidelines for owners of historic properties to explain the village's local historic program and the Historic Preservation Commission's approval process required for exterior alterations proposed on a locally designated structure. We value being a Certified Local Government in the state's program and receiving grant monies to assist us in providing public educational materials and outreach on the provisions of our local ordinance and historic preservation program." The guidelines will be published and distributed to local historic property owners and any resident. They are expected to be completed in fall 2005.

Local designated landmarks now include the United State Post Office, which was designated a Village Landmark on December 1, 2004 by the Village Board of Trustees and Mayor. Other landmarks include the Bond Street Historic District and the Community Church. Preservation consultant Nancy Solomon commented "I am very impressed with the Village's efforts to preserving its historic buildings. All too often many municipalities, especially on Long Island, neglect their cultural resources, and then wonder why their sense of community has changed. Mayor Celender, the Village Trustees and the Preservation Commission are to be commended for their efforts preserving these treasures."

## "I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale," Sunday, April 17th

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is unique to Long Island for 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 many years ago.

This service to our residents allows

you to empty your closets and shelves of items in good, usable condition 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 advertising to attract buyers. We have over 50 families who put out their wares in Parking Lot #2 opposite Fredrick's.

The cost to register is \$5 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. This low charge helps to defray the rising advertising costs. Call the village to reserve a spot. Rain date: May 1st, 2005.



# Village of Great Neck Plaza

## Village Board of Trustee Meetings

Convenes Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

March 2 & 16

April 6 & 20

May 4 & 18

## Village Court Dates

Convenes Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

March 1, 8 & 22

March 15th Trials

April 5, 12 & 26

April 19th Trials

May 3, 10 & 24

May 17th Trials

## Mayor Participates in "Kids Take Action" at Long Island Hebrew Academy

Mayor Celender was pleased to participate and show the village's support for the Long Island Hebrew Academy's (LIHA) "Kids Take Action" recycling program. The LIHA, located on Cutter Mill Road in the Plaza, has embarked on a community service mission of cleaning up Great Neck. Under the direction of their teacher, Mrs. Robin Grosswirth and LIHA's principal, Rabbi Meier, the students are collecting bottles, cans, ink-cartridges, and cell phones, in an effort to raise money for the Guide Dog Foundation. The goal is to raise \$6,000 by the end of May to sponsor a Guide Dog for the blind.

The children were invited to Village Hall to meet with Mayor Celender and tour the village's facilities, including the Department of Public Works. Mayor Celender, an environmental

planner, is an advocate of environmental awareness and wanted to explain village initiatives on recycling, street sweeping, other clean-up activities and environmental protection. Stated Mrs. Grosswirth, "We have learned a lot from her and the DPW." Mrs. Grosswirth, for LIHA, has been awarded two grants from the Constitutional Rights Foundation for \$500 and from Newsday's Futurecorps for \$150. LIHA is asking for support from the local business community to help match these funds and to donate recyclables, so that they can attain their goal of sponsoring a Guide Dog for a well deserving handicapped person. "They are learning first-hand what community service is all about, and it's wonderful to join with them so they can see that our local government wants to partner with our schools and

community groups in such ventures," stated Mayor Celender. The Village urges residents to help LIHA to reach their goal. If you have used cell phones or other items that the students are collecting, please contact Mrs. Grosswirth at (516) 466-3656 by phone, or by mail at 122 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11021.



## Plaza & Rotary Blood Drive - April 13th, From 8 AM to 2 PM

The Village of Great Neck Plaza and the Rotary Club of Great Neck have scheduled a blood drive on Wednesday, April 13 from 8:00 AM to 2 PM in Village Hall.



The blood that is collected is vitally important to distribute to local

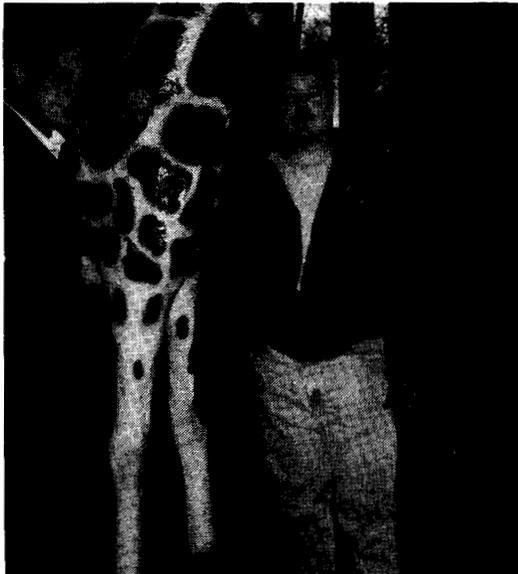
area hospitals. Based on our successful drive last year, our amount of recommended pledges needed to reach the goal is 50 donors.

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 8:00 AM until 1:45 PM. Please call and give the gift of life. You will be 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?

## Meet the New Plaza Employees

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is happy to introduce you to two new employees. Joining the village family are David Distilli, (pictured here on the right of our giraffe) who works with the Department of Public Works and on the left is Maximillian Fleming, the newest Code Enforcement Officer.



We also congratulate Ivor Belgrave on his promotion to Supervisor of the Department of Public Works. He has stepped in to replace Bob Shore who retired after more than 30 years with the Village.

We extend to these staff members our best wishes for many wonderful and productive years in village government. Be sure to welcome them when you see them in town.

**Village Elections For Two Trustees Tuesday,  
March 15th from 9 am to 9 pm  
In Village Hall**

## Plaza Courtroom Gallery Welcomes Christa Heilweil

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is delighted to announce the showing of the artwork of a brand new artist, Christa Heilweil, in our courtroom gallery. There will be an artist's reception at 7:00 PM, Wednesday, April 6th. Please come and greet this very fine artist and view a selection of her portfolio, which includes still life, portraits, landscapes and more!

Christa has been a resident of our village for over thirty years. She had been in advertising for many years and only began to take art seriously a few short years ago, upon her retirement. She trained in our Great Neck art leagues and found a world of enjoyment and excitement in her newfound hobby. You will be amazed at the talent, the skill and the beauty shown in her work!

## Senior Citizen Energy News Update

The Nassau County Department of Senior Citizen Affairs is responsible for reaching out to seniors in our community so that there is awareness and understanding of their services. "Income-eligible" households need to know that there are programs to help serve, coordinate and assist with their energy needs.

Nassau County's Home Energy Assistance Program, (HEAP) can assist you in paying for heat or utilities. You may be eligible if you are a Nassau County Resident, 60 years of age or older (or under 60 and receiving SSI or Social Security Disability).

If you think you qualify call the Nassau County Department of Senior Citizen Affairs at 227-7386 for information and an application.



# Plaza Ribbon Cuttings

"The Auction Store" at 81 Cutter Mill Road (in Sir Speedy) will sell your unwanted valuables for you on e-bay! Joining the co-owners Jonathan and Michael Muller, were Andrew Feldschreiber, Rabbi Shalom Axelrod, Asst. Rabbi at Great Neck Synagogue, Great Neck Chamber of Commerce members David Lurie, Valerie Link, Pat Riccardi, Mayor Jean Celender, Carol Teplin, and Housing Commissioner of Great Neck Plaza, Sheryl De Los Rios.



Independence Community Bank opened its newest branch at 50 Middle Neck Road with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Jon Kaiman, many members of the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club joined residents of the village for the ceremonies. Brian Lawn, Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager of Independence Bank said, "We are looking forward to becoming an integral part of the Great Neck community."

If you would like to have a ribbon cutting to celebrate your grand opening, please 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. "We're anxious to welcome new businesses to the Plaza and continue to make our downtown a wonderful place to shop, play, walk, live and enrich our lives," says Mayor Jean Celender.

## "Why I Like Living in Great Neck Plaza" Contest

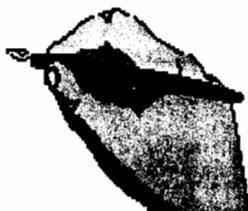
The Village wants to hear from you, so we have initiated a contest for you to recall your fondest and dearest reasons for "Why I Like Living in Great Neck Plaza!" Send your entry to us at the following address:

Village of Great Neck Plaza Contest

2 Gussack Plaza,  
Great Neck, NY 11021

This contest is open to all resi-

dents of Great Neck Plaza. We ask that your essay be between 75 and 150 words, and be typed or hand printed, if necessary. Use as many adjectives as you like, but try to be specific.



Mayor Jean Celender and the Board of Trustees will judge all the entries and

decide upon the winners. The deadline is April 11th, 2005. There will be three glorious prizes:

1. A Saturday night stay at the Inn at Great Neck, with Sunday brunch.
2. Dinner for two at a restaurant and Squire movie tickets for two.
3. Lunch and complimentary manicures for two.

# Traffic Talk with Sheldon Goodman, Ph. D.

In the past this column has focused specifically on issues related to traffic and pedestrian safety. In this edition we will expand our perspective to consider the topic of **bullying** as it manifests itself in the car as road rage and bullying that occurs in other settings. Bullying behavior has taken on such proportions that it is a social issue we cannot ignore if we are to survive as a society that still treasures kindness, decency, respect and courtesy. Our response needs to be a multifaceted, systemic approach that includes all community and national stakeholders that are committed to working together.

We live in an increasingly violent society where aggressive behaviors are often depicted as glamorous, exciting, and the pathway to power. We are continually exposed in the media and in real life examples to acts of violent behavior. While all the data may not be conclusive at this point, there is mounting almost irrefutable evidence that being so immersed has its cumulative effect on how we treat each other.

Let's get some terms down. What is road rage? A random act of violence or aggressive behavior carried out by a frustrated or overstressed driver. It is usually expressed between strangers, involves a perceived threat into one's space and thus one's identity. What causes such rage? The three main categories used to classify this condition typically are the environment, intrusive responses, and territorial defensiveness. Environmental conditions are the main factors associated

with road rage. These conditions can consist of traffic congestion, another's dangerous driving habits, the weather, noise levels, and time constraints. Intrusive responses are actions of retaliation to get back at others for their driving errors. Territorial defensiveness is the act of defending one's personal space (your car), in response to another individual's driving. To these causes I would add that we live in a culture that puts a premium on time as a limited resource, the breakdown of manners and courteous behavior, a focus on individualism- a "me first" mentality, a tendency to dehumanize the other, minimal emphasis on ongoing driver education (periodic refresher courses-some states are now requiring this for senior drivers-perhaps it's an idea that needs to be incorporated on a larger scale?) and lengthy commutes many of us have to regularly endure.

How about bullying in a larger context? It is persistent unwelcome behavior, that systematically and chronically inflicts physical hurt and/or psychological distress. It can be direct as teasing, hitting or threatening, or indirect as in exclusion, rumors, or manipulation. It differs from other forms of aggressive behavior in that it always involves an imbalance of power. To be bullied is a terrifying experience that we face every day. If allowed to continue it can escalate into even more serious behaviors. It should not be thought of, as it has in the past, particularly in regard to how children may treat each other, as a benign rite of passage. Kids may be afraid or ashamed to tell adults about being bullied. Regrettably, some adults don't intervene because they still hold to the belief that children

should work it out on their own- that it builds character. **WRONG.** Our children are being reared in a car culture that condones irate expressions as part of the normal wear and tear of driving. Once they enter a car, children notice that the rules have changed: It's okay to be mad, very upset, out of control, and use bad language that's ordinarily not allowed. By the time they get their driver's license, adolescents have assimilated years of road rage. The habit can be unlearned but it takes more than conventional Driver's Ed. Our young driver's-to-be need help to avoid creating another generation of "road-rageous" drivers.

As responsible drivers and models for our youngsters, don't retaliate to the actions of the bully driver. Ask yourself is getting back worth endangering myself and my loved one's? Be polite, don't tailgate or cut someone off and don't make obscene gestures.

Entertain the idea that maybe they made a mistake, that it wasn't an intentional act and to borrow a phrase that is *au courant* -"get an attitude adjustment." One of the most important steps you can take to avoid bullying in all its forms takes place inside your head.

Please, please, don't let courtesy slide.



Aggressive Driving Kills!

Courtesy of the National Road Safety Foundation

**VILLAGE OF GREAT  
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**We're on the Web:  
[www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net)**

**SAVE THE DATE:**

March 14th, 7 PM, "Town Hall" Meeting on Proposed Library Extension, at Great Neck South High School,

March 15th, Village Elections —Village Hall from 9 AM to 9 PM

April 13, Rotary Club of Great Neck/VGNP Blood Drive, from 8 AM to 2 PM

April 17th, "I Don't Have a Garage, Garage Sale," Rain date: May 1st

May 1st, 4th Annual Fun Run/Walk" for Winthrop Hospital's "Children with Cancer"

## **Plaza Looking for CERT Volunteers**

Nassau County Office of Emergency Management has developed a new program called Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). It is a federally funded, community-based program that provides training and on-going education to better prepare communities and individuals to respond to emergency situations. When an emergency or disaster happens, CERT members can give critical support to first-line responders and provide immediate assistance to their community within a coordinated, collaborative, and organized effort. CERT members can also help with non-emergency preparedness projects that help improve the overall safety and quality of living in their community.

The CERT course is taught in the community by a trained team of first-line responders and individuals who have completed a CERT Train-the-Trainer course. Training is a basic, eight section course including the following: Emergency preparedness, Fire safety, Emergency Medical Operation (Part I), Emergency Medical Operation (Part II), Light Search and Rescue Operations, CERT Organization, Disaster Psychology, and Terrorism and CERT.

CERT is for anybody who would like to assist local authorities and act as second responders in a disaster or emergency. A background check will be conducted in order for you to participate. If you are interested or would like more information you can email the Office of Emergency Management at [NCOEM@mail.co.nassau.ny.us](mailto:NCOEM@mail.co.nassau.ny.us). Please enter "CERT INQUIRY" in the subject line and include your first name, last name, address, village, zip code, phone number, email and a brief comment, and the county will contact you.