

# PLAZA VOICE

## FALL 2006

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  
**Editors:** Carol Teplin and Beverly Safian

### 22nd ANNUAL STREET FAIR, ANTIQUE FAIR & AUTOFEST OCTOBER 22nd, AT NOON

The Village of Great Neck Plaza and the Business Improvement District (B.I.D.) are busy coordinating activities for their 22nd Annual Street Festival. The date is Sunday, October 22nd, 2006; 12 Noon - 5 PM, with a rain date of Sunday, October 29th. "We're proud to offer another country-fair type 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. 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 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 thank the community for supporting our downtown and the extraordinary shopping and community life 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. 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, you're sure to have fun!!

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The Village of Great Neck Plaza mourns the loss of our beloved Trustee, Jay Ferkin, who died August 29<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Celender said "The Village has lost a long-serving, dedicated public servant, who will be deeply missed. Jay was a kind, sensitive man who worked hard as a Trustee, always seeking the best for our residents."



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 Jonathan Ielpi Firefighters Memorial Park. Our thanks to our terrific community-minded businesses that sponsored weekly performances, and those that provided free treats for you to enjoy on the warm summer nights. Our Program Coordinator, Carol Teplin, continues to improve the variety and mix of sounds. We also want to thank sound man Tony Ventiera, and our DPW employees and Great Neck Park District Commissioners and staff.

We are proud to have dedicated the permanent plaque for our first Trompe L'oeil mural, *A Handful of Keys*, on the facade of the corner building at Middle Neck Road and Maple Drive near Daruma Restaurant. This is the first in a series to bring beautiful public art to grace our streetscapes, encourage additional foot traffic and visitors to the CBD and revitalize our downtown. 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 Gold Medalist, as a 4 year old child. 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, through private donations, not at taxpayer expense. We beginning fund raising for our second mural. Major donors of \$1,000 or more will also be listed on a permanent plaque to be installed at the mural site. Anyone interested in helping to support our mural program, should contact me or Carol Teplin at Village Hall, at 516-482-4500.



We are very excited about the first annual "Clothesline Art Show." It is scheduled for Sunday, September 10th, 2006 and will be an all-day, rain-or-shine event! (For more information turn to page 7.)

We are currently planning our 22nd Annual AutoFest, Antique and Street Festival, which stands to be another wonderful "Great Event." I hope to see you at the Street Festival; come and enjoy a dance in the Plaza streets with me!

Jean A. Celender, Mayor

## Traffic Talk 2: A Drive for Civility by Sheldon Goodman, Ph.d.

Civility will be our building block for better community relations. Let us focus on one lost example of what I have been attempting to convey; the art of lane courtesy. Lane courtesy is, to put it in its simplest terms: moving to the right and allowing faster-moving traffic to pass. Americans almost uniformly ignore this cardinal rule of road civility- and it's probably the biggest single reason why driving has become so unpleasant in and around cities. American's don't practice lane courtesy because it isn't taught in American driver-education courses. The person who refuses to budge from the left lane is convinced that they are right-and the angry line of drivers stuck behind fuming and inevitably tailgating as they jockey for enough space to make a move are "aggressive" and full of "road rage." In Europe it is understood that failure to yield to faster moving traffic is a hazard that can cause accidents. Strict enforcement and widespread public practice of the art of lane courtesy explains why European roads where speeds are often much higher than on U.S. interstates, have lower overall accident fatality rates.

Perhaps a resurgence of polite driving practices could be sparked. One by one, car by car, let's make it a point to move to the right when another car wants to pass. Let's all repeat the mantra: Enforcing the speed limit is not my job. If someone wants to get around me I will let them. It's not a difficult thing. It would make our harried, over-stressed lives just a wee bit nicer. C'mon. What do you say? Scatter the clouds of gloom and spread sunshine with your smile. Remember, a smile is a curved line that can straighten many problems. I will leave you with a simple little ditty: walk smart (cross intersections defensively) and drive smart. If you would like to add any comments, concerns or join the Village in achieving these goals please e-mail me @ smg4 safety@aol.com.

# Dedication of Trompe L'oeil Plaque

A dedication was held at Daruma of Tokyo Restaurant to unveil the plaque standing beside the mural "A Handful of Keys." The donors who provided the funds to embark on this undertaking were invited to attend the ceremony and each donor received beautifully engraved and framed certificates thanking them for their generous contributions.



Mayor Jean Celender presided over the ceremony with Olympic Gold Medalist and Honorary Chairperson Sarah Hughes, by her side handing out the certificates. Said Mayor Celender, "To create this beautiful artwork took the work of many people. I thank my Board of Trustees for their assistance, guidance and patience over the past two years, and our muralist, Mr. William M. Cochran of Fredrick, Maryland, was chosen from an exhaustive search of muralists around the country, because of his experience, talent and ability to produce the quality of artwork deserving of Great Neck. The funds for this project were raised entirely through private and corporate donations. "To assist me towards that goal, we formed a Public Arts Advisory Group, and we're honored that Sarah Hughes is serving as the Honorary Chairperson," stated Mayor Celender.

The Great Neck Arts Center was instrumental in providing children who attended the GNAC as models for the artist, and also allowed William Cochran to use their premises for many hours of interviewing prospective models, and then posing for pictures. Regina Gil, the Executive Director of GNAC and her entire staff helped create the environment for the artist's creative juices to flow freely. "When the idea of using Sarah Hughes' image in the mural, Sarah's family worked with William and I to select the proper image to use. We had great fun going over old photographs of Sarah as a child," said Mayor Celender.

After welcoming remarks from Mayor Jean Celender the assemblage was treated to a most wonderful tribute performance by two members of the Children's Orchestra Society, introduced by Dr. Karen Beluso. The very talented musicians were Miyuki Miyagi, violinist and Brett Baskin, Cellist. After presenting the certificates of appreciation to the donors, everyone went outside to view the actual unveiling of the permanent plaque. Thanks go to Yoshi Hirashima, proprietor of Daruma Restaurant, for the wonderful refreshments and the use of his party room.

# New Residents Welcome

The Village of Great Neck Plaza would like to meet and welcome new residents to the Plaza at a reception we are hosting on Wednesday, September 20th at 7 PM at Village Hall.

We'd like to tell you all about the services we offer to our residents and have the opportunity for Mayor Jean Celender and the Board of Trustees to meet and greet you.

If you are a new resident, please call Carol Teplin at 516/482-4500 and let her know that you are interested in attending. Refreshments will be served.

## "Star Performer" Nomination Form

The next scheduled "Star Performer" Ceremony will be on Thursday, October 5th 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Your name & phone number:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

## Code Enforcement Officers Take Public Relations Training Course

In August, Officer Richard Keddy of the Nassau County Police Academy provided an all-day class for the Code Enforcement Officers (CEO's) to be trained in improving communication skills and public relations. The class was attended by Joseph Diaz, Director of CEO Division, and the Plaza's six CEO's.

Since our CEO's job is to issue parking violation summonses, they encounter a good number of disgruntled people daily. Similar to police officers, Officer Keddy described how to deal effectively with situations that arise. He formulated a beneficial course for our CEO's based upon daily occurrences. In his presentation and research on the Plaza, he covered every subject in detail; including verbal and nonverbal communication, safety issues, public perception, stance and tone of voice. He engaged the officers on a personal level, and during the break many of our CEO's spoke about how appropriate, useful and meaningful the class was to help them better perform their duties.

Over the years the village has utilized various professional speakers to work with the CEO's on communication skills. Officer Keddy's presentation was exceptional. Many of the suggestions from him have already been implemented by our staff. Our sincere thanks to Officer Keddy and the Nassau County Police Department for their assistance and training. We strive to improve our CEO's staff relations with the public. Often times interaction with one of our CEO's may be the first person the public meets of our village staff. We understand the importance of conveying a positive, congenial, professional and helpful attitude. We appreciate your feedback on all our employees, so feel free to write or call to commend a member of our staff or report a problem encountered.

## VILLAGE JOINS WITH NASSAU COUNTY TO PROVIDE FLU SHOTS TO RESIDENTS

The Village of Great Neck Plaza will again be 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 December 7th, Thursday, during the hours of 2:00—5:00 PM. Pneumonia vaccines will also be offered at this time.



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

Pre-registration will only be accepted beginning November 27th. Please do not call or come to the village before that date, as we cannot register anyone prior to November 27th.

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

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 17 from 9 AM to 4 PM, with a rain date of Sunday, October 8, from 9AM—4 PM.

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 17th with a rain date of October 8th. The cost to register is \$5 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. This low registration charge will help defray the rising cost of advertising. 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 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Sept. 6 & 20

Oct. 4 & 18

Nov. 1 & 15

Dec. 6 & 20

### Village Court Dates

Convenes Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Sept. 7, 12 & 26

Sept. 19th Trials

Oct. 3, 10 & 24

Oct. 17th Trials

Nov. 6th (Monday), 14 & 28

Nov. 21st Trials

Dec. 5th, 12th

Dec. 19th trials

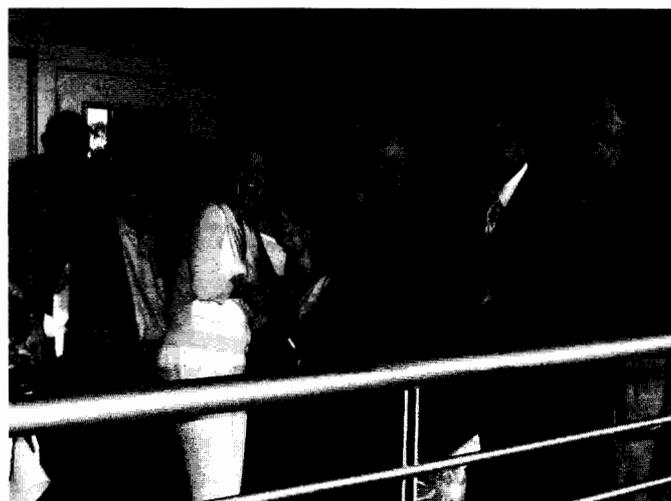
## NEW STORES IN THE PLAZA

The Village is happy to welcome the following new and/or relocated businesses that have recently opened in the Plaza. Stop in and greet these newcomers and say "hello." They bring vitality to our community.

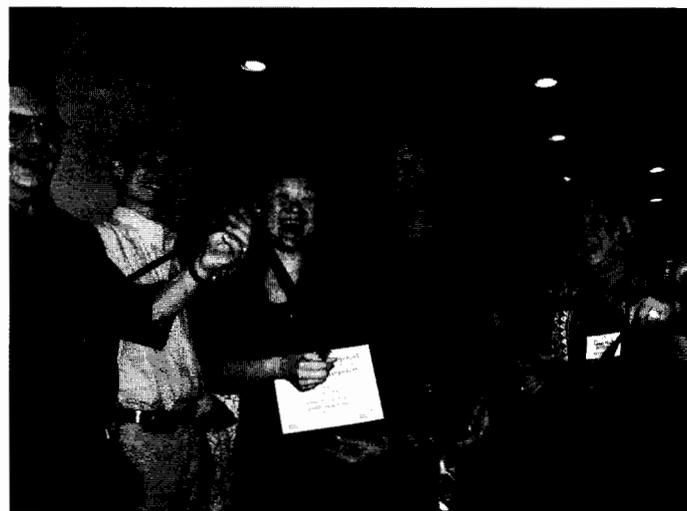
- Tangerine Asian Tapas and Noodles, 68 Middle Neck Road. Unique healthy fusion delights on the menu!
- Starfish Too Restaurant, trendy seafood restaurant and bar at Gardens of Great Neck Shopping Center.
- Cosi Restaurant, Gardens at Great Neck Shop Center
- Wachovia Bank, 20 Great Neck Road
- LaModa Unisex Hair Salon, 25 Cutter Mill Road, under new ownership; come let Eduard style your hair!
- Fast Frame, 5 Great Neck Road
- Judy Cleaners, 43 So. Middle Neck Road
- REMAX Real Estate, 10 Grace Avenue
- Empire Home Theater, 11 Cutter Mill Road
- Prudential Real Estate moved to 14 Grace Avenue
- Gutterman Realty, 1 Ash Place/Cutter Mill Road
- WOW Dance Studios, 45 Cutter Mill Road
- Ozone Restaurant, 115 Middle Neck Road
- Kama Restaurant, moved to 77 Middle Neck Road
- Nardo Shoes, moved to 31 Middle Neck Road
- G & S International, 5B Grace Avenue

If you would like to have a ribbon cutting to celebrate your grand opening, call the village at 516/482-4500 and ask for Carol Teplin. She has a media kit and invitations to help you coordinate the event, and will announce the news to various service clubs in the Great Neck area.

## VGNP RIBBON CUTTINGS



Mayor Celender cuts ribbon with Starfish Too owner, Mark Lefkowitz and other well-wishers.



John Dominsky, owners Lionel and Michelle, (Lee Seeman behind them) Jeffrey Schwartz, Roger Chizever and Valerie Link happily welcome Tangerine Asian Tapas and Noodles to town!

## Walkable Communities Seminar

The Villages of Great Neck Plaza, Great Neck Estates and Great Neck had the first set of meetings and walking audits for a "Main Street Conference," held at the Inn at Great Neck. The Conference included a Public Information Meeting facilitated by Dan Burden, a nationally recognized authority on bicycle and pedestrian programs, street corridor and intersection design, traffic flow and calming, and other planning elements that affect roadway environments. He's had 25 years of experience in developing, promoting and evaluating alternative transportation facilities, traffic calming practices and sustainable community design. Burden served for 16 years as Florida DOT's State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, and he works as Executive Director of Walkable Communities, Inc., a non-profit corporation helping North America develop walkable communities.

At the Public Information Meeting, Mr. Burden presented "What is a Livable/Walkable Community," a slide presentation that incorporated images and suggestions he made during his visit. The presentation featured the best of Burden's discoveries in 15 years of working in 2,000 communities. He focused on characteristics of our neighborhoods, such as pedestrian-friendly environments, bicycle/pedestrian accessibility and mobility issues affecting our elderly and disabled population.

During this visit Mr. Burden collaborated efforts among the three villages of Great Neck Plaza, Great Neck Estates and Great Neck for a 2-mile stretch of Middle Neck Road which encompasses the heart of our downtown commercial business districts. A strategic plan will be developed to incorporate innovative methods to foster sustainable economic development. A second round of meetings will be scheduled in the fall/winter to present the plan of action based upon the walking audits, public workshops and, most importantly, community input.

Mayor Celender indicated that this Main Street Conference is the first step in a cooperative venture between our three villages and the community to address the questions that many are asking, "What will be the future of our downtown? How do we improve the traffic and pedestrian circulation and make the downtown safer and more walkable? What strategies can we come up with to implement to maintain and improve the vitality of our downtown and our beautiful suburban neighborhoods and quality of life?"

## Stormdrain Stickers Alert Community



Maybe you have noticed that our storm drains now have colorful inlet markers on them? Well if you have, these new decals are part of the village's Phase II Stormwater Program. Mayor Jean Celender states, "These markers are designed to help promote public awareness, and are an effective means of providing a pollution prevention message."

These markers inform persons not to dump anything into a curb inlet, because these materials deposited in the drains eventually find their way to our local surface waters, and can cause pollution. Runoff in our storm drains in Great Neck Plaza flow westerly and this runoff ends up into Little Neck Bay. Many years ago the Village of Great Neck Plaza began its curb-marking program using spray painted stencils. Eventually they wore off and were labor intensive to maintain.

These current plastic markers are more attractive and eye-catching, quicker to install, and more durable than the stenciled messages. These decals, produced by das Manufacturing Inc., were identified by Mayor Celender in a visit to Forth Worth, Texas, a city that has been using these markers for many years successfully and are their proven arsenal. After first seeing these decals on storm drain curb inlets in Texas, the Village ordered these decals and installed them over the summer. Thanks go to Mike Sweeney his son Reegan and Reegan's buddy Brian Dolan who assisted in their installation.



## Clothesline Art Show Sept. 10

The Plaza, in partnership with the Great Neck Arts Center and the Business Improvement District (BID) are proud to announce this exciting new event, based on the successful East Hampton Clothesline Art Show. Artists who have original work in oil, acrylic, watercolor, etc., are invited to participate in our **FIRST ANNUAL CLOTHESLINE ART SHOW**. This open air show offers an opportunity for artists to sell their work directly to the public during this all-day event, which will be held in the parking field on Maple Drive in the Plaza. Cost is \$15 for a maximum of five works of art no larger than 45" by 45". To register, please call for a registration packet (829-2570) from the Great Neck Arts Center.

## NEW LOOK ON PATV, CABLE CHANNEL 18

The Village of Great Neck Plaza has recently updated our pages on the Public Access Television Corporation's (PATV) village's station, **Channel 18**. With cooperation from Cablevision and Keywest Technology, a new and improved program called "Media Creator" has been launched, which provides a faster and more efficient way to create pages for our cable station. This new program allows us to provide our viewers with more timely information on the services and programs in the Plaza.

On these new and improved pages, you can view information about village government, committees, dates of the Board of Trustee meetings, Court calendar, garage permits, who to call if there is a problem with a number of issues, the dates and performances for the Summer Concert Series, and much more. So, please view our new and improved public access pages, 24 hours a day, for information on the Village of Great Neck Plaza.

In addition to the village channel on **Channel 18**, we also encourage our residents to view PATV's station cablecasting on **Channel 20**. PATV provides public access programming in the incorporated villages of the Great Neck/North Shore served by the Great Neck/North Shore Cable Commission: **Flower Hill, Great Neck, Great Neck Estates, Great Neck Plaza, Kensington, Kings Point, Lake Success, Munsey Park, North Hills, Plandome, Plandome Manor, Plandome Heights, Russell Gardens, Saddle Rock, Thomaston.**

PATV's mission is to promote and produce television programming of an educational, literary, cultural and civic nature. Should a resident in the Plaza want to report a problem, please contact Trustee Joel Liebowitz, the village's cable commission representative, at 516/482-4500.

## Friendly Parking Meters Installed

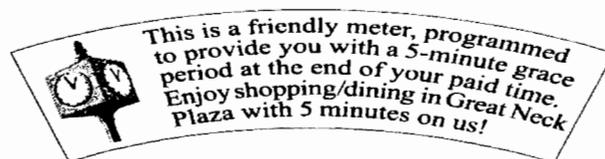


Trustee Schneiderman, Pat McGrath and Rachel Krieger at reprogrammed meter.

In an effort to provide more shopper-friendly parking meters, the Village of Great Neck Plaza recently launched a program that has reprogrammed all parking meters to provide a five-minute grace period at the end of the paid period on the meter. Trustee Gerry Schneiderman, working closely with Director of Code Enforcement Joe Diaz, DPW Meter Coordinator Patrick McGrath and summer intern, Rachel Krieger of the Mayor's office, was instrumental in getting Duncan Technologies, the village's meter supplier, to provide new software for its meters to accomplish this victory for parkers and local businesses.

The program was implemented in response to suggestions from shoppers, merchants and local business organizations to "give shoppers a break." Shoppers who receive a ticket often complain that they were only minutes late getting back to their car, feeling the ticket was issued the moment the meter expired. Stated Mayor Jean Celender, "We greatly wanted to overcome this perception because our commercial business district is one of the most successful downtowns, and we want Great Neck Plaza to be known as a wonderful place to come for shopping, dining and just enjoying a visit to our charming, beautiful village. If shoppers can find parking more readily and know there's a grace period," said Mayor Celender, "it will allow them to worry less about rushing back to their vehicles before their meter expires, and this in turn will make for more stress-free shopping and dining."

Ron Edelson, Executive Director of the Great Neck Plaza BID, noted, "providing the five minute grace period demonstrates the village's willingness to listen to our merchants and shoppers and take action to improve the shopping experience for all who visit Great Neck Plaza."



**VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK  
PLAZA**

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**visit our website:**

**[www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net)**

**SAVE THESE DATES:**

Sept. 10th, "Clothesline Art Show," 9 AM to 4 PM in Lot #2 on Maple Drive (Rain or Shine)

Sept. 17: "I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale," 9AM to 4PM, Lot #1 on Grace Ave & Bond St (Oct. 8th Rain date)

Oct. 5th: "Star Performer Awards Ceremony" 9:30-10:30AM (See page 3 for more details)

Oct. 11th: Village of Great Neck Plaza/Rotary/Chamber/Lions/Kiwanis Community Blood Drive 2:30 PM- 8 PM

Oct. 22: 22nd Annual Street Fair and Auto Fest, 12 Noon—5 PM, (Middle Neck Road: Barstow to Cedar)

December 10th, Flu Shots being given at Village Hall from 2 PM to 5 PM at no out of pocket cost to you!

## **COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE, OCTOBER 11**

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 their annual blood drive on Wednesday, October 11, 2006, from 2:30 PM to 8 PM, and 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 our 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. 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.

We thank you in advance for your community spirit and generosity and look forward to seeing you then.