

Plaza Voice June 2009



Mayor Jean A. Celender, Deputy Mayor Ted M. Rosen, Trustees
Gerry Schneiderman, Pam Marksheid and Rafe Lieber

Clerk Treasurer Patricia O'Byrne

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Great Neck Plaza 2nd Annual Restaurant Week

Celebrating its second annual Restaurant Week, the Village of Great Neck Plaza invites all residents and Long Islanders to enjoy the eclectic and tasty menu styles of more than 20 of its restaurants throughout the week of June 7-June 14. All participating restaurants will offer Prix Fixe dinners for \$22.09, making for a wonderful night out.

Great Neck Plaza is a dining destination that is both diverse and vibrant. "We have a variety of restaurants offering Asian, Mexican, Greek, Continental, Italian, Mediterranean and American style foods," said Jay Corn, Vice President of the Business Improvement District (BID) and co-chair of the Restaurant Committee. "The décor of these restaurants are inviting and warm, allowing for a family night out or an intimate meal."

"Restaurant Week is a chance for people from our community as well as our neighbors to experience the excellent cuisines available in our many fine eateries," said Great Neck Plaza Mayor Jean Celender.

"Last year, Great Neck Plaza restaurants experienced a 10-15% increase in patrons during Restaurant Week," said Gerry Schneiderman, village trustee and co-chair of the Restaurant Committee. "We look forward to another great turnout where families can enjoy the eclectic foods on display for a very reasonable price."



A special attraction during the week will be the transformation of Middle Neck Road, between Cutter Mill Road and Ceder Drive, into a pedestrian promenade on the evening of Thursday, June 11, from 6:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. with a rain date of June 13th. Patrons will be invited to sit under the stars in a European style promenade and enjoy menus from around the globe. The event will feature live and DJ music, street performers and stores will remain open for much of the evening.

The friendly atmosphere of Great Neck Plaza is the perfect setting to enjoy the best in North Shore dining. All participating Restaurant Week restaurants are within walking distance of convenient parking available on-street and in municipal parking fields and garages, and the LIRR train station.

A second Promenade is planned for July 16 from 6:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. and will feature the closing of Bond Street from Grace Ave. to the Railroad and will include the North Station Plaza restaurants.

A third Promenade is being planned for August (a date to be announced) at the Gardens of Great Neck including the Great Neck Road restaurants. Please call the BID at 829-1301 for more information or visit their website at www.shopgreatneck.com.

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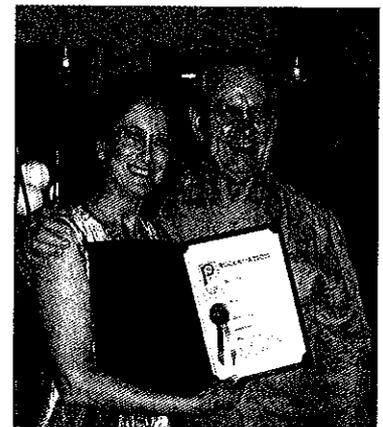
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Mayor Jean Celender presents a Proclamation to Joseph Tatar upon his retirement after 41 years as a merchant in the Plaza. We will all miss Joseph's warmth and smile and wish him only the best!

Dear Friends,

We are finally starting to enjoy some warmer weather and doing our annual spring clean up. It's a time for landscaping, power washing the sidewalks and garages, and beautifying our streetscape with hanging flowers and potted floral arrangements. As a reminder to our residents and merchants, please join us in cleaning your windows, awnings and sidewalk areas in front of your place to help us keep the village looking beautiful, clean and tidy.

In this edition you will see our line up of Summer Concerts for the 2009 season. These concerts in Jon's Park stand to be another year of terrific performances. We have invited back some of your favorite groups, and added some new bands for fresh new sounds. Carol Teplin, my assistant and Event Coordinator for the concerts has done an outstanding job to pick a variety of music genres for your enjoyment and we attempt "to have something for everyone." We welcome sponsorships of the concerts to help defray the rising costs of these shows. Merchants or organizations that would like to help, please contact Carol Teplin at 482-4500. There are still full and partial sponsorships of the weekly shows and we price these sponsorships at affordable levels - a full concert is \$1,000 and half sponsorships are \$500. Our thanks to the Great Neck Park District for the use of Jon's Park and to Regina Gil from the Great Neck Arts Center, our Commissioner of Arts, for their support and cooperation.

Despite the recession, we are fortunate to have the opening of several new stores and others that are coming soon. We hope this is a sign of better times ahead for our merchants and downtown. A great many openings have been restaurants, adding new cuisines and ethnic foods that diversify our downtown eateries. The Plaza's Business Improvement District has scheduled its 2nd Annual Restaurant Week for June 7 to 14th with special prix fixe dinners. Continuing the successful Bond Street Promenades launched last summer, the BID in association with

the Village will be hosting a Promenade along Middle Neck Road during Restaurant Week on Thursday, June 11 (rain date Saturday, June 13) from 6:30 to 10:30 PM, where there will be outdoor dining, bands and special activities taking place on a pedestrian-only mall from North Station Plaza to Cedar Drive. Merchants will be staying open late for special sales events. So join us for a festive, exciting week and value-priced dining to encourage everyone to "eat out in the Plaza." For more information, visit the BID's website at www.shopgreatneck.com.

We have continued to pursue our traffic calming grant for Barstow Road, North Station Plaza and Linden Place. During the past month we held a public information meeting to solicit public comments on the proposed design plan. We are proposing to construct sidewalk extensions, or bulb-outs on several street corners, providing more visible crosswalks with pedestrian refuges, and tightening up of this intersection to slow down motorists and to make it easier for pedestrians to cross in this busy location. Similar to the roundabout on the opposite end of Bartow Road, we anticipate that these initiatives, once constructed, will prove to be a major safety enhancement. Final design and bid construction drawings are being prepared as we finalize agreements with the involved parties. We anticipate that construction will begin in late summer this year. We feel it is important to bring these "quality of life" improvements to our village, making our downtown a more walkable, sustainable community. Many of our residents of all ages love walking, and it's important to make our streets and crosswalks safer and also to encourage motorists to be more courteous to pedestrians.

I wish you all a relaxing, fun-filled summer and hope to see you at Jon's Park on a Tuesday night for some entertaining music during our Summer Concert Series. Enjoy!

Mayor Jean



Stormwater Update

Under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Phase II regulations, administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Village of Great Neck Plaza is issued a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (permit to operate as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems). Our stormwater discharges directly into surface waters of Little Neck Bay and under the provisions of our permit we are obligated to take all measures and Best Management Practices to ensure the quality of the stormwater that discharges from our system. Unlike water which is used in many of our homes, stormwater is not collected in a sewer system and passed through a water treatment plant before being discharged. Instead, it is collected in a series of connected catch basins that eventually reach Little Neck Bay. Practicing "Good Housekeeping" can help everyone minimize their impacts on the greater environment. Our goal is to reduce pollutant runoff by introducing new pollution reduction measures, and asking our residents and citizens to make improvements to our local waters by making small changes in their everyday lives.

Every day, the Village of Great Neck Plaza undertakes actions that maintain quality of life in the Plaza and maintain our stormwater pollution prevention goals, such as personnel training programs, pollution prevention plans, sweep and vacuum our streets and sidewalks maintaining a clean environment and routinely inspect all facilities that are involved in operations that may impact water quality. Some of the Plaza's Good Housekeeping operations are:

- Working with the Nassau County Department of Public Works and its Storm Water Coalition to reduce the amount of salt and sand that is used for road and parking lots de-icing to the optimal level, therefore preventing excess salt and sediment from washing into our waterways.
- Reducing the amount of chemical pesticides and herbicides used in parks and buildings by advocating non-chemical practices and products.
- Implementing measures to prevent floatable waste and sediment from entering Long Island's surrounding waters.

Our roads are inspected daily for debris and flooding, and roads and catch basins are cleaned according to scheduled maintenance and according to need, in order to prevent debris (including autumn leaves) from accumulating and washing into waterways.

"Joseph And Company" Owner Celebrates 51 Years in Great Neck

Joseph Pugliese, owner of Joseph and Company at 4 Bond Street, has been in the hair business since March of 1958 – 51 years!

As a youth in post World War II Italy, Joseph tried different jobs to see what profession he wanted to devote his life to. His father wanted him to become a shoemaker because they made a lot of money in those times, and money represented security. Joseph apprenticed with a shoemaker and lasted one day! It simply wasn't for him. He was continually drawn to barbering and hairstyling. People in Italy would gather at barber shops and they became a social arena. In those days women didn't have money to get their hair done more than twice a year, but the men went every day, to get a shave and bond with the other patrons. He became enamored with the prospect of hairdressing and, over his fathers strident objections, he became proficient in cutting hair at a very young age.

He left Italy when he was 18 years old and did not speak a word of English. "I crossed the ocean to better myself and make a life in America." He looked through the job ads and found one for a barber at the Town House barber shop, on Cutter Mill Road. When he got off the train, he took one look at Great Neck and thought, "This is where I want to be!" He saw a community of people who took pride in their homes, their schools, their cars and their town and wanted to be a part of it. He stopped a police officer and showed him the ad. The kind officer knew Joseph had a problem with English, so he walked him over to the barber shop. He started work that very day. In those days you didn't need a license to cut men's hair, but you needed one for women because of the chemicals

used in women's hairdressing. After he passed the exam he worked at Monte Daniel Beauty Parlor on Middle Neck Road and began a love affair with the community of Great Neck.

As he developed relationships with his clientele, he knew he wanted to open his own shop and share the cultural experience of the barber shop with people of GN. He opened Metamorphosis on Middle Neck Rd, where he grew for 20 years until moving to 4 Bond Street. "The bright, educated, cultured people who came into my shop enjoyed discussing art and music and the finer things in life. They appreciated my work and sent their neighbors, friends and family to my shop."

In time he bought Joseph and Company and says that he is happiest when working. "There was never a day that I came to work and resented having to do so. I love the metamorphosis that occurs when a woman sits in my chair and gives me the honor of bringing out her inner beauty. People come to my shop to look good and feel good. If they don't look good and feel good it's my fault. So I always do my best."

Joseph surrounds himself with people who feel as he does. There are no diva's in his shop; only nice people dedicated to the happiness and welfare of the client. That is his philosophy, and it has served him well for over fifty years. Our hats are off to you, Joseph!



E-Newsletter *Receive News and Information via E-mail—Join Mayor Jean's E-Newsletter!*

If you would like to receive news and information from our office pertaining to our Village, including this newsletter by e-mail, fill out the form below and return it to us at Village Hall. Coming soon, you will also be able to go on-line and register on the Village's web site. The submitted information will be used solely by the Mayor's office to keep you current on important matters.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____
PHONE * _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

* Indicates Optional Information

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECIPIENT OF PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

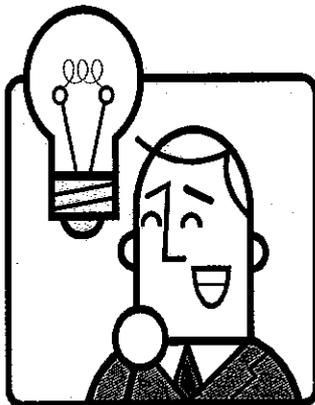
On May 3rd, the Village of Great Neck Plaza Historic Preservation Commission was given an award of extraordinary achievement for preservation efforts by the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities (SPLIA). These prestigious awards in 2009 recognized three awardees: the Historic Preservation Commission of Great Neck Plaza for its new user-friendly commission website and educational approach to preservation advocacy; Mr. Richard Wines of Jamesport and the Mill Neck Family of Organizations.

SPLIA, a preeminent non-profit historic preservation organization, is the region's preservation advocate for historic environments on Long Island. It works to promote the appreciation and protection of the region's cultural awareness. For more information on SPLIA, visit their website at www.splia.org. The Village of Great Neck Plaza's award from SPLIA this year recognizes the Commission's new website, which was partially funded from a Certified Local Government Grant from New York State. The link to the Historic Preservation Commission can be found from the village's website at www.greatneckplaza.net. On the left hand side on the main page, click on the link, "Historic Preservation." The Commission's website includes its three publications (all of these publications can be downloaded), forms and guidelines, quiz, survey, history of the Plaza, architecture, the Historic Preservation Ordinance, links to other resources and much more information to fulfill the Commission's goal of "working with local residents on preserving the rich historic fabric and culture that makes Great Neck Plaza unique."

In accepting the award, consultant Nancy Solomon, on behalf of the Commission, stated "This is a terrific honor and one that I share proudly with the Commission and our web designer Pete Ames. The Commission worked on the concept, especially when thinking of ways to engage local residents. We thank Mayor Celender and the Village Trustees for supporting this endeavor, and hope that it will inspire other Commissions to reach out to their residents using new technology. We also thank the CLG program at the NY State Historic Preservation Office for funding this project."

Mayor Jean Celender thanked SPLIA and stated that she and the Board of Trustees were proud of the work of the Commission and its many achievements in its short history. Many thanks were also given to Nancy Solomon for her guidance and dedication of historic preservation as a consultant to the Commission. Nancy is largely responsible for the numerous grants the Village has received for historic preservation and the many projects implemented from these grant monies. Stated Mayor Celender, "We give thanks to the Historic Preservation Commission and their wonderful accomplishments, their foresight, vision and dedicated work in preserving our designated historic buildings, helping to provide greater public awareness of the village's historic buildings and educating residents about our rich history."

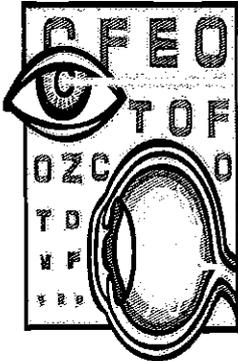
The Village is looking for residents in the community with appropriate qualifications to serve on the Commission, including a licensed real estate broker, attorney, a resident of the Bond Street Historic District, and those with an interest in historic preservation and architectural development. Interested persons should forward a cover letter and curriculum vitae to Mayor Jean Celender and the Board of Trustees at Village Hall, P.O. Box 440, Great Neck, NY 11022.



We want to be inspired!

Tell us how you or someone you know through volunteerism created a positive change in our community. Regardless of whether it helped hundreds of people or one person, we want to hear how the members of our community are solving problems and helping other people. We will highlight your story in a future newsletter to demonstrate the power people have to change our community and the world.

Senior Span Advisory Committee Update



The next meeting of the Senior Span Program, which assists our growing senior citizen population to age gracefully in place, is June 19th at 9:30 A.M. We are proud to announce that Dr. Benjamin Freed, O.D., renowned ophthalmologist will be speaking about the importance of eye care. Dr. Freed is an expert on macular degeneration and we are honored to welcome Dr. Freed to Great Neck Plaza and look forward to his presentation .

Dr. Freed graduated from the State University of NY at Stony Brook in 1978 with a B.S. degree in Biology and physiology. In 1982 he graduated from the SUNY College of Optometry, where he is now on the faculty. Since 1983 he has run the Low Vision Clinic at LIJ Medical Center and has been on the teaching faculty of the Lighthouse. He has supervised hundreds of students in the eye-care clinic and since 1993 has been Chief of the Homebound Eye Care Program which brings primary eyecare to the homebound elderly of NY City.

The Advisory Committee is actively working on developing a "Friendly Reassurance Call Program" to contact seniors who are homebound and the isolated and frail elderly, to provide a safety check, give emotional support and to inform seniors of available services. The Reassurance Calls will be made by volunteers and the calls are from five to ten minutes in length at a mutually agreed upon time. These calls will give the seniors a sense that they are not isolated, but part of a greater community who cares about their well being. This program is being developed in consultation with other towns that are providing this service and in consultation with social workers to ensure that the volunteer callers are properly screened and trained and that the privacy of the elderly recipients would be of the utmost concern.

Any senior or homebound resident that would like to get "Friendly Reassurance Calls" are requested to sign up for the program by calling Carol Teplin at 516/482-4500, with your name and telephone number. There is no need for you to feel alone anymore.

Beautification of the Plaza

The Village has contracted with Pam Holland, a Landscape Designer with Ireland Gannon located at Martin Viette who has used her 25+ years of experience in landscape design to create an unusual and refreshing color palette for the Village of Great Neck Plaza sidewalk pots.

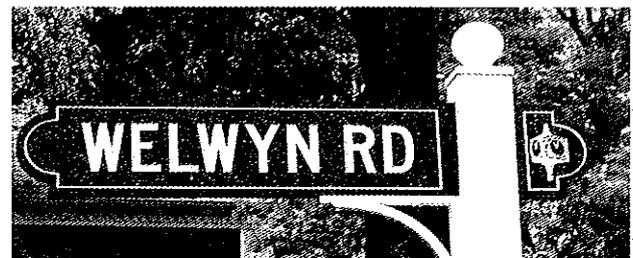
For the spring/summer season, the dark green leaf New Guinea Impatiens with salmon flowers, will compliment the dark blue flowers of Angelonia. The cream stripe of the Algerian Ivy cascading down the pots will remain for the fall season, as well as the Pennisetum Rubrum, green and burgundy blades of ornamental grass, which turn tan with the cool air of fall. The New Guinea's and Angelonia will be replaced with ornamental kale and smiling multicolor pansies.



For the winter change, all plants are replaced with green boughs, Blue Junipers and winter white branches. Come visit the Village of Great Neck Plaza and enjoy the seasonal changes along the sidewalks.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

(See story on Page 7)



Star Performer Awarded to Seven on May 7th

"STAR PERFORMER" NOMINATION FORM

If you wish to nominate a "Star Performer" please complete this form and mail it to Carol Teplin, Village of Great Neck Plaza, 2 Gussack Plaza, P.O. Box 440, Great Neck NY 11022. 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: _____

To nominate someone for the Star Performer Award you select someone who works in the Plaza who goes out of their way to make you feel special, and who makes Great Neck Plaza a better place for you to work, shop and live. Just fill out the Nomination Form. Potential "Star Performers" greet you with a smile, are eager to help, treat you with dignity, respect and patience so that it's a genuine pleasure to do business in the Plaza. Call 482-4500 for more information or to nominate a Star Performer and join us on Thursday, August 6th for a really "feel good" ceremony at 9:30 A.M. at the Village Hall.

Here are the May "Star Performer" recipients and their nominators:

Richard Miller, Manager of Great Neck Super Service on Cutter Mill Road, nominated by Merle Gutterman Holstein.

Mun Chin, Manager of Waldbaums Supermarket, nominated by Ruth Weiss and Joan Antonoff.

Sarah Staller, of Astoria Federal Savings Bank, nominated by Jonathan Matthews.

Janet Fine, Jennifer Green and Suzanne Fiala, of the Great Neck Library were nominated by Ruth Weiss.

Janice Moore of Great Neck Electric at 245 East Shore Road, nominated by Merle Gutterman Holstein.

Accidentally omitted from the last newsletter was Star Performer recipient Abbas Abuwala. Our sincere apologies Abbas, for the error.



Summer Concerts 2009 - Jonathan Ielpi Park Gazebo

Tuesday under the stars at 8PM! Rainates:Thursday

Priceless Entertainment, Entirely Free!

June 16/18	"Something Special Big Band" Phil Costa
June 23/25	"Son Candela" with Jose Rivera
June 30/July 2	"Dad & Daughter Duets" Moore Music
July 7/9	"Sweetwater" Disco Dancing Music/Song
July 14/16	"Highway 49" Country & Blues
July 21/23	"Jamaica Jammin" Reggae Sounds
July 28/30	"JC Diva Revue" Streisand, Celine, Tina
Aug 4/6	"I Left My Heart" Tony Bennett Tribute
Aug 11/13	"Savannah Sky" Country & Line Dancing
Aug 18/20	"Tulip Restaurant Band" Turkish Music
Aug 25/27	"Brother Peach" Allman Brothers Tribute
Sept 1/3	"Heart & Soul of Classical Music" Ed Kalendar and Company

Presented by the Village of Great Neck Plaza, Jean A. Celender, Mayor

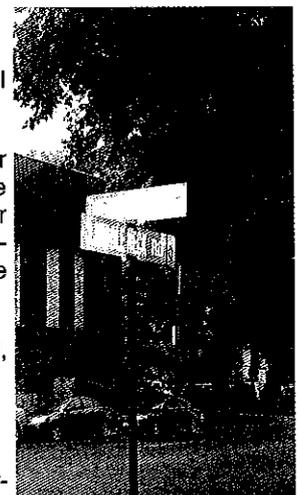
In cooperation with the Great Neck Park District & The Great Neck Arts Center

SIGN-OF THE TIMES

New street signs are going to be appearing throughout the Village following the recently revised federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) which requires larger lettering on street signs.

Over the next few months, the Village of Great Neck Plaza DPW will begin the process of replacing our older street signs (see photo) with larger lettering to increase readability. These are being done in-house by our Department of Public Works Department and their sign making capabilities. They even include our Village clock logo. The Wyngate area will be getting similar treatment, but with white sign posts in keeping with the more traditional signs in this residential neighborhood (see Photo on Page 5). Here are some of the benefits:

- The all upper-case for the street name with the smaller size upper-case letters for Avenue, Street, Road, Place, etc. are much easier to read at a distance.
- The green background and white text are much easier for people to read.
- Modularity of the sign. The inclusion of our Village clock logo is a village branding feature, which differentiates our village area from adjoining municipalities.



VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

2 Gussack Plaza

P.O. Box 440

Great Neck, NY 11022-0440

Phone: (516) 482-4500

FAX: (516) 482-3503

E-mail: info@greatneckplaza.net

PRSRRT STD

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

GREAT NECK, NY

PERMIT NO. 286



Promenade Dates June 11th, Middle Neck Road (North Station to Cedar Drive; Middle Neck Road Closed from 6:30 PM-10:30 PM

July 16, Bond Street & No. Station Plaza, streets closed from 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM (See story on Page i)

Tuesday, June 16th, first concert in the park "Something Special with Phil Costa," 8 PM in Jon's Park—Raindate on Thursday 6/18

Friday, June 19 at 9:30 AM, Senior Span Open Meeting with Speaker, Dr. Benjamin Freed, O.D. (Ophthalmologist)

Thursday, August 6th at 9:30 AM, Star Performer Award Ceremony at Great Neck Plaza—Village Hall

Sunday, September 13th, "I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale," with a rain date of Sunday, October 4th

October 11, Noon—5 P.M. 25th Annual AutoFest, Clothesline Art Show & Street Fair, **Raindate:** Sunday, October 18th

Plaza Welcomes New Stores

The Village is happy to welcome new businesses. They bring vitality, diversity and new life to our community. If you are new storeowner in town, or recently moved to a new location, the Plaza will provide a free Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate your opening. Call Carol Teplin at the Village, 482-4500 to set a date.

- Rubins Barber Shop, 25 So. Middle Neck Road
- KanPai Asian Fusion & Hibachi Restaurant at 31 So. Middle Neck Road
- Mykonos Greek Restaurant, opened at 37 Great Neck Road
- Ray Levinthal women's clothing/accessories at 83 Middle Neck Road
- Victoria's Super Cuttery at 26A Middle Neck Road
- Marel Fine Giftware moved to 5 Bond Street
- Postur-Line Shoes moved to 58 Middle Neck Road



The ribbon cutting for KanPai Restaurant at 31 So. Middle Neck Road, was a real happening! Owners Sam Wong and Sherry Cheng, who own two restaurants in NY City, welcomed all the guests to their Asian-Fusion & Hibachi Grill restaurant. Offering a spectacular array of Sushi favorites, as well as Thai, Malaysian, Vietnamese and Japanese, this restaurant is not to be missed. Try it, you'll like it!

