

Plaza Voice
Village of Great Neck Plaza
September 2010



Mayor Jean A. Celender, Deputy Mayor Ted M. Rosen

Trustees Ted M. Rosen, Gerry Schneiderman, Pam Marksheid and Marion Green

Clerk Treasurer - Patricia O'Byrne

26th Annual Street Fair and AutoFest, Sept. 26th

The Village of Great Neck Plaza, in association with its Business Improvement District (BID), is planning activities for its upcoming 26th Annual Street Fair, AutoFest and Antique Show, on Sunday, September 26th, with a rain date of Sunday, October 3rd, from 12 Noon to 5 P.M.

A popular annual community event, there will be live bands and other performances on every corner of the village. Streets will be closed to vehicular traffic on Middle Neck Road, from Barstow Road to Cedar Drive, as well as portions of Bond Street, Grace Avenue and North and South Station Plaza in the downtown for a "pedestrian only" street fair. Colorful balloon arches will set a festive atmosphere and the street will be ablaze with color. Clowns, stilt men and minstrels will greet you as you stroll through the fair and delight in the multi-cultural aroma and flavors that will be emanating. You will have a multitude of culinary choices from our many ethnic restaurants ranging from Italian, Asian, Japanese, Chinese, French, Mexican, to "good old American hot dogs," pizza and lots of other treats! Join us as we celebrate life in "small town" America; enjoy spending the afternoon with friends and family in the Plaza's downtown!

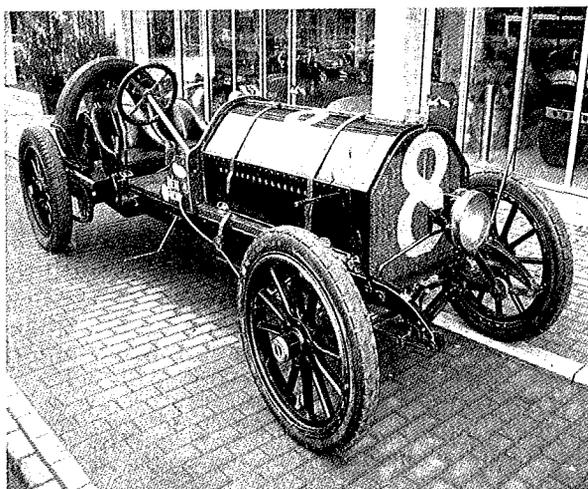
This year's annual event continues to celebrate some of the best that Great Neck Plaza has to offer. According to Jay Corn, Street Fair Committee Chairperson and a BID director, "This annual event is really a celebration of Great Neck Plaza; a way to

highlight our wonderful community groups and shopping opportunities." Mayor Jean Celender adds, "The Village of Great Neck Plaza is delighted to continue this tradition of an annual street fair in the fall. Since its inception, the "Great Event" as it was first known, has been a way to thank the community for supporting our downtown and the extraordinary shopping and community life that we have here."

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. To salute the 100th Anniversary of the 1910 Vanderbilt Cup Race and the Alco-6 Racer as the 1st Place Winner, a fire red T-shirt with the historic race car will be given out to the first 150 antique cars registered, and will be for sale to the public. With top live bands, rides, games, hay rides, a petting zoo and pony rides for the children, Great Neck Arts Center's Clothesline Art Show, there will surely be something for everyone at the Great Neck Plaza Street Fair!

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The historic Alco-6 Racer will be back again to delight the crowds at Middle Neck Road and Gussack Plaza.

Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

The Village has been busy this past summer completing construction of two traffic calming projects, one on Bond Street from North Station Plaza to Grace Avenue, and the other on Barstow Road and North Station Plaza/Linden Place. As a transportation planner, I want to explain the rigorous process of obtaining, designing, implementing and evaluating these projects, as well as identifying the important safety measures these two projects address.

Our traffic calming projects were obtained through state grants from the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) program entitled "Local Safe Streets and Traffic Calming" (LSSTC). The LSSTC program, while administered by NYSDOT, involves federal-aid grant monies from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The grant program provides for 80% reimbursement with federal monies, and a 20% local match. It is a competitively solicited grant program, offered once a year to all villages, towns, cities and Nassau and Suffolk Counties. NYSDOT requires submission of a written grant application package identifying an important traffic, pedestrian, and bicyclist safety issue based on existing conditions, including traffic count and accident data.

Local projects awarded must follow stringent procedures established by the FHWA. Also, the design must follow the NYSDOT Highway Design Manual, the New York State Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and other municipal contractual requirements. Below is an explanation of what each of these transportation grants and projects provide in terms of traffic safety and pedestrian improvements:

Bond Street: The Bond Street "bulb-out" or curb extension project, from North Station Plaza to Grace Avenue, widens the sidewalk or curb line into the street, reducing the street pavement width. Bulb-outs enhance street safety by reducing motorist traffic speeds and by shortening crosswalk distances. Bulb-outs also improve visibility for pedestrians and motorists. Through the project, this section of Bond Street has also been resurfaced with new asphalt pavement.

Barstow Road: This project is intended to address traffic congestion, improve traffic safety and increase access to the railroad station, New York Sports Club, The Andrew Hotel and nearby restaurants and stores. It includes the following traffic calming features:

- Curb extensions or "bulb-outs" strategically designed at the four quadrants of the intersection of North Station Plaza and Barstow Rd., which create a more organized and channelized intersection.
- Installation of highly visible and colored crosswalks to provide additional warning to motorists of an area of high pedestrian activity.
- Median islands to serve as pedestrian refuge areas and guidance for vehicles for more controlled movements within the intersection.

- Repaving this roadway section of Barstow Road from Grace Avenue to the Barstow Road roundabout.

Monitoring

All projects awarded NYSDOT grants are required to undergo post-construction monitoring, as this allows the state to assess whether the project has met its traffic calming and safety objectives set out in the grant. Post-construction monitoring occurs over a time period sufficiently large enough to capture relevant data and perform an analysis of factors such as accidents, spot speeds or average speed, public reaction, etc. The post-construction analysis is performed by the sponsor (in our case, the Village) and is then reported to NYSDOT.

The Barstow Road roundabout post-construction monitoring report, prepared by VHB Engineering, Surveying and Landscape Architecture, P.C., is on-line at www.greatneckplaza.net, under "Traffic Calming Initiatives." The Barstow Road roundabout project was found to be an effective traffic calming feature for Great Neck Plaza. We are in the process of completing the post-analysis survey for Great Neck Road, as that project was done in August 2008. Great Neck Plaza has been at the forefront of undertaking traffic calming initiatives, which are aimed at slowing traffic, alleviating traffic congestion, enhancing pedestrian and traffic safety, and generally providing for improved, safer streets.

This past summer has been another fantastic Summer Concert Program. We were fortunate to have many lovely nights and terrific entertainment. We introduced some new venues, along with bringing back old time favorites. If there were performers you especially liked and we should welcome back next year, please let us know.

Thanks to all our sponsors who through their generous support of the program helped us bring great entertainment to Jon's Park, which includes Astoria Federal Savings Bank, Atria Senior Living Group, Colbeh Restaurant, Community National Bank, Daruma of Tokyo, Esparks, Flushing Commercial Bank, Grace Plaza Nursing & Rehab Center, Great Neck Arts Center, Great Neck Taxi, Inn at Great Neck, Richland Management, Pancho's Border Grill, Sterling National Bank and TD Bank.

We are very grateful for the cooperation of the Great Neck Park District and to Exec. Director Ann Tarcher and the Great Neck Senior Center for utilizing their facility as an indoor venue. We ended up there three times over the summer due to rain, and thankfully, these shows were able to go on, and the performance there were excellent.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer. I look forward to seeing you at the 26th Annual Street Fair and AutoFest.

Jean A. Celender, Mayor

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: _____

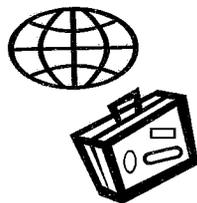
ADDRESS: _____

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PHONE * _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Senior Span Advisory Committee Update



Ms. Mary Vinquist, a volunteer as an Elderhostel ambassador, formerly known as Exploritas, hosted a Senior Span discussion on June 17th. Elderhostel now known as "Road Scholar," formed in 1975 as a non-profit organization for lifelong learning and educational travel. Road Scholar is unlike any travel agency; there

Program prices include meals, luggage service, and day trips. Group sizes are typically made of 25 to 30 participants. For more information visit their website at www.roadscholar.org or call (877) 426-8056.

The next Senior Span Advisory Committee meeting will be Friday, October 22 at 10 AM at Village Hall.

are over 178 programs, covering 90 countries including Antarctica. What started out with 220 educational "pioneers" in 1975, has now celebrated 4 million participants at its 30-year anniversary.



Mayor Jean Celender (left), Mary Vinquist (second from right), Senior Span Advisory Committee members and guests learned about the Road Scholar Programs.

The Road Scholar programs bring together instructors and participants from different backgrounds. The organization works with universities to provide enriching tour guides and instructors, and a great educational experience. Examples of programs include "Grandparent Travel" in which the younger adventurer can share the passion for educational travel, "Food and Culture of Tuscany," or "Adventures Afloat" which span the world's most fascinating waters – from the Aegean Sea to the Great Lakes, to the canals of France. Aside from programs abroad, and nationally, there are also "Day of Discovery" programs such as visiting the home of Teddy Roosevelt in Oyster Bay, NY.

Road scholar has negotiated special rates that offer the best value, convenience and flexibility. Group tours are also available to reserve for special gatherings or occasions.

Seasonal Plantings in the Plaza



Trustee Gerry Schneiderman (right) and Vic Santelli (left) reviewing the sidewalk pots and planning the upcoming fall plantings.

This is the third year since Trustee Gerry Schneiderman, the Village and its beautification committee started implementing a seasonal planting program. This year's plantings seem to be the best, according to Steven Dann, a merchant in the Plaza that pushed to have the Village create this program.

According to Trustee Schneiderman, "It is by trial and error that we have been able to learn what works and which vendors are more reliable." Each of the season's plantings start with the Department of Public Works, under the supervision of Superintendent Ivor Belgrave, by cleaning out the pots and preparing them for the new plantings. The following morning, at the crack of dawn, the vendor, this year Santelli Nursery, comes in and plants them up.

Coming for the first time this next year, they will add an additional early spring season of pansies, which we all hope will get villagers out of the winter doldrums and awaiting the colorful spring and summer plantings that come afterwards in mid May.

Next Star Performer Awards Nov. 5th at 9:30 AM

To nominate someone for the Star Performer Award you select someone who works in a shop or business 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. 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.

Just fill out the Nomination Form and mail it back to us. It's that simple. Call 482-4500 for more information or to nominate a "Star Performer" and join us on for a really "feel good" ceremony at Village Hall.



Refreshments will be served.

"STAR PERFORMER" NOMINATION FORM

If you wish to nominate a "Star Performer," please complete this form and mail it to **Star Performer, Village of Great Neck Plaza, Village Hall, 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:

Plaza Honors Star Performers

Star Performer recipients were honored on Friday, July 16 by their nominators. Mayor Jean Celender, presented certificates to the Star Performers, with friends and family members also participating in the event. Here is a list of the recipients and what their nominators had to say about them:

Aaron Kim of Rite Aid Pharmacy, was nominated by Ms. Sullay Mazzarelli for being "so helpful, kind, friendly, and efficient." Sullay was so happy to have the opportunity to publicly recognize the hard work and kindness of her pharmacist.

Roseanne Russo of Chase Bank, was nominated by Ms. Lillian Schual who says, "Roseanne is always very helpful, pleasant, and professional." Although Lillian was unable to attend the event, Ore Kladias, from Chase was present to speak about Roseanne's dedication to customers.

Gale Alles of Atria Cutter Mill Road was nominated by Trustee Gerry Schneiderman; he says "Gale is caring, sensitive, dedicated, and hardworking over and above what is expected." Gale's unending hard work and loyalty to the Village describes as a "Star Performer!"

Astelle Schatzman of Station Branch Library, joined by Kathleen Cotter, head of Station Branch, was nominated by Mr. and Mrs. Malwitz, exclaimed, "Astelle is always helpful, knowledgeable, friendly and kind." Astelle was also nominated by Judith Goldman, who says, "Astelle is consistently kind, helpful, considerate, and has a sunny disposition."



(From left to right): Kathleen Cotter, Utilia Malwitz, Astelle Schatzman, Mayor Jean Celender, Trustee Gerry Schneiderman, Gale Alles, Roseanne Russo, Ore Kladias, Aaron Kim, and Sullay Mazzarelli at the July 16th Star Performer Awards ceremony.

The Plaza's "Green" Garden

Our newest environmental-based initiative is a "Green" vegetable garden. The pilot program was launched in late spring in a small plot of land behind the Department of Public Works (DPW) yard. The ultimate goal of the project is to bring fresh, healthy food to the community, through growing fruits and vegetables locally without the use of chemicals or pesticides, in a way that is both inexpensive and interactive.

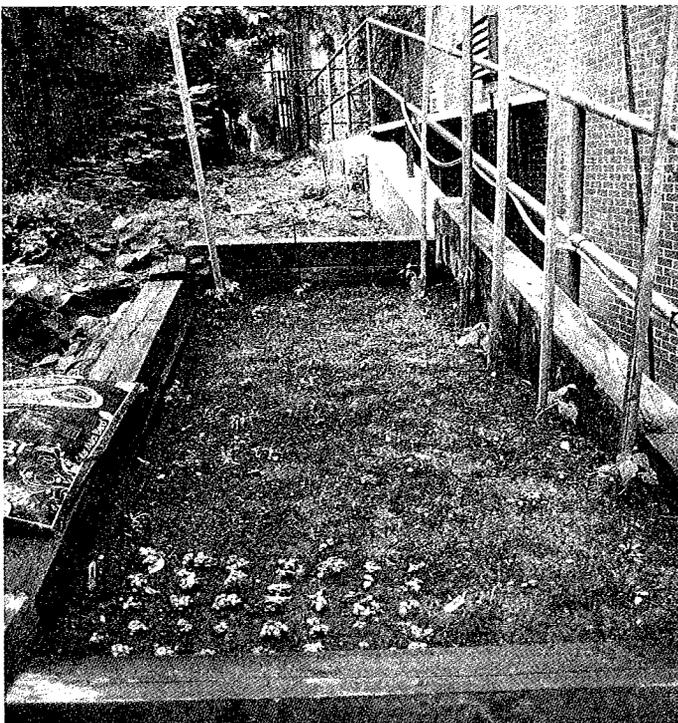
"We are lucky to have such a valuable resource in our own DPW backyard," says Mayor Jean Celender. "The Village of Great Neck Plaza wants to pioneer environmental best practices and we are thrilled to have this "green" garden to aid us in both developing good nutrition and educating our staff about the importance of healthful eating. We hope this will be a successful effort, and we are already looking to next summer to expand the program and involve more residents in a larger garden, especially geared toward apartment-dwellers or those with limited outdoor space."

This year the garden's vegetables included beets, beans, jalapeno peppers, tomatoes, brussels sprouts and herbs of basil and thyme. The organic seeds were initially planted in pots indoors in late spring, and the seedlings were transferred to the garden in early June.

The DPW staff used a combination of organic compost and manure to enrich and prepare the soil in the 4' by 6' raised bed for plantings. The particular plot of land for the garden receives less than six hours of sunlight each day, as it is located in an alley behind Village Hall; however, despite the less-than-ideal amount of sunlight, the vegetables have still grown at a healthy, albeit slower rate (see photo on the right of the garden in August).

Some of the plants, such as the tomatoes, that normally would have harvested within 50 days, have yet to be harvested. The staff plans to have a harvest event to pick the ripe vegetables in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, the basil has been thriving and the Village staff has been enjoying fresh pesto sauce and tomato, basil mozzarella salads.

All materials for the garden were personally purchased by Mayor Celender at no expense to the Village. In future years we are looking to receive donated materials and/or a grant to continue and expand the project. We are considering alternative locations for the garden, and we will be determining how best to structure the project in the future to involve more members of the community.



June seedlings just planted



August sprouts and the garden in full bloom

Did You Know?...

VGNP FREE Shopper Bus

The Village of Great Neck Plaza operates a **FREE Shopper Bus Program for shopping at Waldbaum's**. Residents of any age (who have difficulty walking or don't have a car) are picked up in front of their home, taken to Waldbaum's and returned home two hours later every **Monday** and **Wednesday**. Visit our website at greatneckplaza.net and click the "Shopper Bus" icon on the right side of the home page for information about the routes and pick up times. Registration for this program is optional, but it will connect residents with the commuter service directly in the future. Residents who are interested in registering for this program should contact Sheryl De Los Rios at Village Hall at 482-4500.

LIPA's "Critical Care Program"

LIPA's "Critical Care Program" helps identify customers who rely on life-support equipment. When a severe storm is forecasted or some other event impacting reliability of service occurs, LIPA will call critical care customers so they can make advanced preparations. If outages do occur, every effort is made to restore their electricity as quickly as possible.

In order to receive this service, customers need to contact LIPA and provide a medical certificate from their doctor or local Board of Health so LIPA can note the account and tag the meter as "critical care." There are 11 devices that meet the medical criteria for life-support equipment, which include:

1. Apnea Monitor
2. Curraise Respirator
3. Positive Pressure Respirator
4. Suction Machine
5. IV Feeding Machine
6. Tank Type Respirator
7. Respirator/Ventilator
8. Hemodialysis Machine
9. Rocking Bed Respirator
10. Oxygen Concentrator
11. IV Medical Infusion Machine



For more information on LIPA's "Critical Care Program," or to sign up please call 1-800-490-0025 or visit www.lipower.org.

The Village of Great Neck Plaza also maintains a database for special-needs residents. Our aim is to ensure communication with first responders at times of emergencies. To be added to the database and for further information contact Mayor Celender at Village Hall at 482-4500.

American Red Cross Seeking Volunteers

Ninety-six percent of the Red Cross total workforce is made up of volunteers. The **Youth Volunteer Program** enables young adults between the ages of 14-17 to provide valuable services and programs to the community. The **General Volunteer Program** for ages 18 and over has a variety of opportunities the following areas: Community Disaster Educator, Disaster Action Team, Emergency Response Vehicle and others.

Aside from responding to disasters and home fires on a daily basis, the Red Cross teaches First Aid, CPR, Lifeguard Training Classes, and other health and safety skills. The Nassau County Chapter offers courses geared toward children, such as the Babysitter's Training course, or the First-Aid for Children Today: for ages 6-8.

Your local Red Cross unit could have just the opportunity you're looking for – either check out your local Red Cross office, or use "Volunteer Match" on their website to locate volunteer opportunities. To learn more about courses offered locally by the Red Cross, Visit their website at www.nassauredcross.org or call (516) 747-3500. The Nassau Red Cross holds classes at its offices in Mineola, and the Freeport Recreation Center.



Emergency Planning Tips During Hurricane Season

In order to be prepared during the hurricane season, Nassau County Legislator Judi Bosworth announced that the Nassau County Office of Emergency Management has begun to make preparations in case a hurricane makes landfall. It is important that we are all ready for a hurricane, and suggest the following:

- Develop a family plan for survival and property protection. Rehearse the plan so everyone knows what to do.
- Have flashlights, battery-operated radios and extra batteries on hand.
- Have material available to protect your doors and windows.
- Put together a family hurricane evacuation kit that includes bottled water, bedding and clothing, including sleeping bags and pillows, and appropriate prescription medicines.
- Ensure that enough non-perishable food and water supplies are on hand. One-gallon of water per person per day is recommended.
- Provide for pets.

Students Conduct Mock Homicide Trial By Professor Paul Becker

"The defendant is a cold blooded killer who must pay for his crime!" the student argued to the judge and jury in the Village of Great Neck Plaza courthouse on August 20. "My client wasn't even there!" responded the student-attorney for the defense. Judge Richard Kestenbaum and the jury carefully weighed the conflicting evidence from witnesses and the crime scenes presented by the 14 students attending the Great Neck Public Schools' Summer Mock Trial Institute. Later the jury and the judge issued a verdict convicting the defendant only of robbery.

"I got a real sense of what it is like to be a trial attorney" said one student. Another student remarked that "This course taught me a lot about trial strategies and how to persuade juries."

In the four days before the homicide trial, the students engaged in an intensive series of trial tactics exercises designed to prepare them to conduct both criminal and civil trials. Through a wide range of hypothetical mini-trials, the students learned the intricacies of opening statements, direct and cross examinations, closing arguments, using evidence, jury selection, and making and responding to objections.

This course was taught by Paul Becker, a former prosecutor, civil litigator, and law professor. The Village of Great Neck Plaza offered its courtroom and Plaza Acting Justice, Richard Kestenbaum, donated his time to judge the trial. If any students are interested in taking this course next summer, please send an email to professorbecker@yahoo.com.

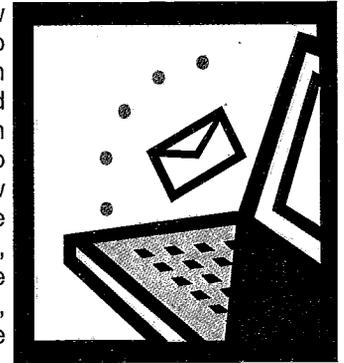


Great Neck Public Schools' Summer 2010 Mock Trial Program

Back Row (from left to right): Robert Adler, Paul Becker, Steve Smith, Judge Richard Kestenbaum, Ben Dynkin, Gabriel Diamond, Jared Lewis, Rachel Saraf, and Elana Lavi.
Front Row (from left to right): Heskell Kahan, Charlene Soleimi, Dan Marciano, Abhi Elisetty, Dalia Katan, Rachel Lauth, and Ethan Swartz.

Plaza Starts E-Newsletter

The Village is launching a new e-newsletter designed to highlight retail and downtown shopping district news and events. It will be FREE to join and delivered via email to those who sign up. The new e-newsletter won't charge retailers and store owners, and articles will feature information about retail stores, insider discount coupons for e-newsletter subscribers, calendar of local events, links to websites and much, much more! The privacy of persons signing up for this email will be respected. Your email will not be shared with anyone.



We have had special events, such as the Summer Concert series, ribbon cuttings, promenades and participants love these downtown activities. The biggest comment we often hear is "we didn't know about this," despite the numerous ways these events are promoted from newspaper articles, paid ads, banners and Facebook pages. The preferred method residents feel is the most effective is emails delivered to their computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs). So either sign up on Page 2, or send your email address to mayorsassistant@greatneckplaza.net to receive our new e-newsletter.

Stormwater Management Program Update

An illicit discharge is defined as any discharge to the municipal separate storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of storm water, except for discharges allowed under a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or waters used for firefighting operations. These non-stormwater discharges occur due to illegal connections to the storm drain system from residential, business or commercial establishments. As a result of illicit connections, contaminated wastewater enters into storm drains or directly into local waters before receiving treatment from a wastewater treatment plant. Illicit connections may be intentional or may be unknown to the business owner, and often happen due to the connection of floor drains to the storm sewer system and other improper disposal practices, such as discharges of washing machines, sump pumps, etc.

The Village is actively engaged in implementing a stormwater management program under a permit with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Our program focuses on reducing pollutants and the impact of discharges to our tidal and freshwater wetlands from stormwater runoff. Please report illegal dumping, pumping or suspicious discharges to Michael Sweeney, Commissioner of Public Services, at 482-4500, or to the **Nassau County Illicit Discharge Hotline at (516) 571-6863**.

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

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We're on the web...

www.greatneckplaza.net

Dates to Remember:

- Sept. 10: September Concert to Commemorate 9/11 anniversary at 3:00 PM, Grace Avenue Memorial Park near Kossoff's
- Sept. 15: Artist Kimberly Dresch Exhibit "Re-emergence, Support, and Hope" opens with Reception from 6:00 – 7:45 PM in the Courtroom Gallery
- Sept. 26: 26th Annual Street Fair and AutoFest, 12 Noon to 5 PM, (Rain Date of Oct. 3)
- Oct. 22: Senior Span Advisory Meeting (See page 3 for more details)
- Nov. 5: "Star Performer Award Ceremony" 9:30 AM in Village Hall (See page 4 for more details)

Plaza Welcomes New Stores

The Village is happy to welcome new businesses and celebrate a milestone event. New stores bring vitality, diversity and new life to our community. If you are new storeowner in town, or an existing business celebrating a milestone anniversary, or recently moved to a new location, the Plaza will provide a FREE Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate your event. Call Mayor Jean Celender at the Village, (516) 482-4500, to set a date. New stores or reopenings in the Plaza included the following:

- Fierce Salon, 23A Middle Neck Road
- Designs by Shoula, 6 Grace Avenue
- Quontic Bank, 3 Grace Avenue
- Sip City, 16 Middle Neck Road, "Meet Me At Sip City"
- Aura Salon & Style Lounge, 25 Cutter Mill Road
- Grand Reopening of Atria Cutter Mill, 96 Cutter Mill Road



Sip City's Recent Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting