

Plaza Voice
Village of Great Neck Plaza
March 2011



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

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Middle Neck Road Pedestrian and Bicyclist Transportation Enhancement Project (TEP)

The Village of Great Neck Plaza recently signed the contract with H&A Landscape of Long Island, Inc. for construction of the Middle Neck Road Pedestrian and Bicyclist Transportation Enhancement Project (TEP). This federal-aid project proposes a variety of upgrades to increase pedestrian safety and general accessibility in this area. The project has received federal funding through the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and is a reimbursement grant program in which 80% of the project costs are provided through federal monies. The work takes place entirely within the train station parking lot and ingress/egress area, which the Village leases and has maintenance responsibilities for with the MTA-Long Island Rail Road. This TEP is neither an MTA project nor is the MTA funding any of the planned improvements.

Pedestrian access routes to and from the Long Island Rail Road train station around Middle Neck Road and North Station Plaza are in poor condition. The existing crosswalks and sidewalk ramps do not offer the shortest crossings, and many are not designed for handicapped accessibility. Within the train station area, vehicles dominate the traffic flow, even though users are predominantly pedestrians. The queuing lanes are structured counter intuitively and provide a less than desirable environment for pedestrians moving in and out of the station. The existing sidewalks around the station and on the south side of North Station Plaza are narrow, the curb and concrete are deteriorating, and they are not aesthetically consistent with the brick walkways found in many other locations throughout our Village.

The Middle Neck Road Pedestrian and Bicyclist Transportation Enhancement Project will implement the following safety and beautification improvements:

- Creating safer and more direct crosswalks.
- Widening the existing sidewalks and using the Village's distinct brick pavers and Central-Park light fixtures to alert motorist that they are entering a gateway to a high pedestrian activity location.
- Adding several benches around the rail station and bus stop to improve the waiting

situation for commuters, and as resting areas for our senior citizens.

- Adding new planters and trees to make the area more attractive, and eliminating existing planters that are obstructions to pedestrians and bus riders.
- Installing and organizing bicycle racks to create a designated area for commuters and recreational cyclists, thereby helping to promote bicycle travel as an alternative means of transportation to reach the Great Neck Plaza rail road station.
- Implementing a work of public art (mosaic tile piece) within this newly designed plaza. The art work construction will be financed through private and corporate donations, not through public tax monies, as was done for the Village's first Trompe L'oeil Public Art Project, *A Handful of Keys*, which is located on Maple Drive.

The Middle Neck Road Pedestrian and Bicyclist Transportation Enhancement Project is part of the Village's overall comprehensive enhancement plan developed in stages for traffic calming, improved walkability and enhancement of the community, attracting tourism, encouraging economic growth and revitalization, promoting safety and accessibility for pedestrians, motorists and cyclists throughout the Village. The contractor anticipates starting construction in the early spring and completion by July 2011.



Pictured are Anthony Jaeger, President of H&A Landscape of Long Island, Inc., and Mayor Jean Celender at the signing of the contract.

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VILLAGE ELECTION NOTICE

Mark your calendar to come out to vote in the Village Election on Tuesday, March 15 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Two Trustees and one Justice will be up for election. The polling location: Great Neck Plaza Village Hall, 2 Gussack Plaza. Free parking will be reserved in the surface lot across from Village Hall in spots designated for voters.

Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

Your village government, the Village of Great Neck Plaza, is here to provide many local services and programs that maintain the quality of life for our residents, merchants, shoppers and visitors. Whether it is snow plowing or sweeping our streets, picking up garbage, or providing programs that promote the well-being of seniors in our Senior Span Program, beautifying the downtown with potted plants and hanging flowers, implementing traffic calming initiatives, your local government is the level of government closest to the people, and we are proud to be here for you, leading in a neighborly way, each and every day.

The good news is that the Village's financial outlook is strong and we are on stable economic footing. While other governments are facing deficits and layoffs, or looking to cut services to fill major budget gaps, we are on target to meet a balanced budget. I, along with our Village Clerk-Treasurer, Patricia O'Byrne, and Board of Trustees, have been conservative fiscal managers, ensuring we project realistic revenues. These are undoubtedly difficult economic times coming out of this national recession. The financial difficulties faced

by New York State and Nassau County affect us in terms of reduced state aid and unfunded mandates passed down to local government. The adopted budget for 2011-2012 neither has a general tax increase nor anticipates reducing existing Village services. Instead, we have found ways to consolidate staff across departments, trimmed expenses, implemented cost-saving measures and made technological advances to deliver services more efficiently.

Because of our history of successfully implementing traffic calming initiatives utilizing federal Local Safe Streets and Traffic Calming monies, we are in the process of commencing construction on the Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) for bicyclist and pedestrian safety improvements at Middle Neck Road and the Long Island railroad station parking lot. We were one of a select few Long Island municipalities awarded such federal monies from the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). The Village has a signed agreement with NYSDOT regarding the commitment of these federal monies, and all of the construction monies are available and in place. Federal funds for 80% of the construction expenses will be coming our way to continue our commitment to

improving pedestrian safety, calming traffic, enhancing our downtown and revitalizing the community with this beautification project, including a wonderful ceramic tile mosaic as a piece of public artwork. Signs of construction will be underway shortly with the warmer weather approaching, and we anticipate completion of this project by July 2011. We ask for the patience and cooperation of commuters and persons using the station area as we work to bring about this major safety improvement and beautification project.

We look forward to the long awaited spring and the beautiful blossoming of our trees and flowers throughout the Village. Our daylight hours are getting longer, too.

I want to wish you a wonderful spring!

Mayor Jean



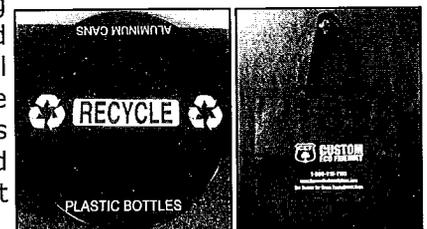
Plaza Goes Green About Recycling

The Village of Great Neck Plaza has launched a pilot program to recycle plastic bottles and aluminum cans, which now are being discarded in the garbage cans. By consumers separating recyclable bottles and cans when they are throwing out their garbage, it is not only good for the environment's sake, but less garbage we will have to dispose of that we collect on the streets. So help us in our efforts to recycle these empty containers in the specially marked new "RECYCLE" green containers with a one slot for plastics, and one for aluminum soda cans. A total of eight recycling bins have been purchased. These containers will be located near high-volume eateries and take-out facilities in the pilot program. Look for these containers to be placed out on the sidewalks in the spring in the downtown.

Stated Mayor Celender, "It seemed like a change we could do to be more eco-friendly and implement a green practice project. A portion of the money we make from recycling the empty bottles and cans will go to a local green program to help support

even greater public awareness and partnering in a community green initiative. Representatives of Reach Out America, a local advocacy group, and the Town of North Hempstead Environmental Planning Department have enlisted the Village's help in recruiting Great Neck Plaza stores to provide recycling bags to their customers, similar to those already being used in supermarkets and health food stores. The Village is looking to work with these organizations and a club at one of the local high schools to use the proceeds from the recycling bins toward the cost of producing the reusable bags.

In this way, we are doing even more for the environment by reducing the use of plastic and paper bags being provided in our stores. "Distributing reusable shopping bags," continued Mayor Celender, "will also reduce our waste volume, which saves trees, water and energy and is smart business."



Poetry in the Plaza Gets Dedicated Bulletin Board

This past year the Village of Great Neck Plaza launched a poetry program entitled, "Poems for the Passerby," which was created through the talents of two of our residents: Carolyn Raphael, a poet, and graphic artist Tara Gordon. The program is modeled after the successful MTA program in the NYC Transit system *Poetry in Motion*. Here in the suburbs, we have displayed a new poem each month throughout Great Neck Plaza. The poems are posted on our various signposts, approximately nine of them throughout the village, in Village Hall, and on the Community Bulletin Board in the ticket building of the Great Neck train station.

In monitoring the bulletin board at the ticket booth of the train station over the past months since the program began, there have been months when the poem disappears, or was folded in half and covered with other items posted on top of it.

The Village is grateful that the MTA-LIRR welcomed the opportunity to assist in ensuring that the poems posted remain secure and available to the community and to "passersby" by providing a dedicated bulletin board.

So the next time you're at the train station, check out our new bulletin board and poem in the waiting room.

A special thanks to Carolyn and Tara on their great work on this arts and cultural project. We hope you have noticed the poems and enjoy reading them.



MTA-LIRR ticket agent, Garry Webster, affixing this month's poem in the new bulletin board at the station

Great Neck Caregiver Workshop

Great Neck Plaza is hosting a seminar on Sunday, April 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. with John Mills & Susan Baida, co-founders of eCareDiary.com, an online service to assist caregivers. eCareDiary.com can be used to schedule appointments, list medications, and care visits. You can create private blogs or store important documents to be viewed only by your designated circle of family and friends. John and Susan started their website to assist the growing community of caregivers who are going through the process of care in different stages. On April 17th, John and Susan, along with a panel of other experts in the geriatric field, will be presenting a discussion on ways to assist caregivers in finding assistance, including self-help. We invite you to learn stress-relieving measures, and find valuable resources of where to go, and how to seek the right information to assist you. Come, participate and share.

WALKING - GOOD FOR MEMORY

A recent study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA* has found that nothing more than regular walking can help modestly expand the hippocampus - a part of the brain important for the formation of memories. The hippocampus begins to shrink around the ages of 55 - 60, so the message is not to be sedentary, but instead to get a good pair of walking shoes and try to walk a minimum of 40 minutes, three times a week. Exercise training increases the size of the hippocampus and improves memory function. So leave the car at home and start walking the Plaza to better health and memory.

Recent Exhibit in the Plaza's Courtroom Gallery

During the month of January the Plaza's Courtroom Gallery featured artwork of Great Neck North High School student, Abe Libman. Abe participates in an advanced art class as well as an AP Art History course and hopes to continue his studies of art in college. Abe has been drawing and painting from a young age and won First Place in the "Stand Up for Freedom Art Essay Contest" in Grade 8. His work incorporates multiple textures and mediums. He will be back in June for an Artist Reception with a full display of his most recent pieces.



Congratulations to **Mel Sachs**, a Plaza resident, for being honored by the Town of North Hempstead as a "Hometown Hero"!!

Women's Health Seminar with Legislator Judi Bosworth

Nassau County Legislator Judi Bosworth held a symposium, "Take Charge of Your Health," at Plaza Village Hall. The presentation was lead by moderator, Neeta M. Shah, M.D., FACP, Vice President of Women's Health Services of the North Shore-LIJ, The Katz Institute for Women's Health. It was an evening filled with important wellness information and the group of approximately 30 attendees, primarily women, participated in a lively discussion of ways to be pro-active about health, wellness and tips for visiting a doctor's office. Dr. Shah explained her philosophy and that she wants all women to "Ask the Three Questions of Their Doctor," which she says are as follows: 1) What is my main problem, or diagnosis? 2) What do I need to do, or what is my treatment plan? and 3) Why is it important for me to do this, and what will happen if I don't follow the plan?

Dr. Shah stressed the importance of being prepared when going to the doctor's office. She suggested you go armed with a list of questions and to ask for detailed explanations. If you feel nervous, or can't advocate for yourself, bring along a spouse or family member to listen with you. Make sure to always get and understand discharge instructions if going in for a procedure or surgery. Make sure to let your doctor know all medications that you are on, even over the counter pills and since prescribed medicines may not be compatible and could cause problems for you if the doctor isn't aware of everything you're taking. She also stressed the importance of follow-up visits and making sure to get copies of all your tests, so that you have them when you need them, especially for second opinions, and if you relocate, etc.

Legislator Judi Bosworth thanked Dr. Shah for her informative presentation and Executive Director Gale Alles, of The Atria Cutter Mill, for donating the delicious cookies and pastries. "Women need to take charge of their health, remarked Legislator Bosworth, "and you need to know how to build a healthy Doctor/Patient relationship for the optimum care. We can all learn and be reminded of this useful information from Dr. Shah to enjoy feeling better."

We thank Legislator Bosworth and Dr. Shah for bringing us this informative seminar.



Mayor Jean Celender, Neeta M. Shah, M.D., FACP, and Legislator Judi Bosworth at Legislator Bosworth's Women's Health Seminar at Village Hall

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. You can also be able to go on-line www.greatneckplaza.net 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

"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:

**Next Star Performer Awards - Thursday,
May 12 at 9:30 a.m.**

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 Michal Pinto, Mayor's Assistant, at 482-4500 for more information or to nominate a "Star Performer" and join us on Thursday, May 12, at 9:30 a.m. for a really "feel good" ceremony at Village Hall.

Plaza Celebrates the Grand Opening of Jean Marie Patisserie & Bistro

The Village of Great Neck Plaza recently celebrated the grand opening of Jean Marie Patisserie and Bistro with members of the Chamber of Commerce, the Old Village, family, friends and neighbors. Now located at 66 Middle Neck Rd., Jean Marie has relocated from its previous location in Garden City. With live musical entertainment, the warmth of the beautiful brick oven, paired with the taste of Jean Marie's signature dishes, gave the feel and flavor of a night out in a Parisian café, right at your doorstep. Great Neck Plaza is the place to attract such business and camaraderie. Residents and consumers expect the best, and merchants and store owners know how to provide this demand.

Jean Marie Patisserie exemplifies this, with their delicious Artisan breads, and French style of pastries, accompanied by simple but excellent foods, such as Macaroni and Cheese, a variety of Panini's, BBQ Chicken Wings, and Black Angus Burgers.

Jean Marie Patisserie has been named one of Long Island's best places for French food. Stop on by, you'll be happy you did!



Recent ribbon cutting celebrating the grand opening of Jean Marie Patisserie & Bistro with Great Neck Plaza and Great Neck officials, the Chamber of Commerce, and family of Chef John with his daughter, Elizabeth, and wife Mary.

February 16th Art Gallery Reception Featured Joyce Barrow

An exhibition of Joyce Barrow's paintings, "Explorations in Color," was on display for the month of February in the Courtroom Gallery at Village Hall. Exhibits were open to the public during normal hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Members of the public were invited to attend an artist's reception on February 16th.

House in Nyack, NY, the East End Arts Council, Riverhead NY, Cork Gallery at Lincoln Center, the Blue Mountain Gallery in New York City and has been selected by the Town of Oyster Bay Rotational Art Exhibit to show a group of oil pastel landscapes at the Hicksville Public Library in March.

Museum; and with Sam Feinstein at his studios in New York and Dennis, Massachusetts.

Ms. Barrow describes the paintings in this exhibit as still life abstractions. She notes that in each painting, she attempts to achieve a dynamic equilibrium through the rhythmic interplay of color and form. Ms. Barrow has exhibited at various galleries in this area, including the Hopper

She has a Master's in Arts Education from Columbia University Teachers College and has received an artist's grant from the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont. She studied painting with Joseph Feher at the Honolulu Art Museum, Hawaii; with Charles Seide at the Brooklyn Art



Artist Joyce Barrow pictured with her daughter, Susan, friends, and Plaza officials on her opening artist's reception

FREE TAX PREPARATION

The Health and Welfare Council of Long Island (HWCLI) brings together government, corporate and non-profit partners to provide free tax preparation services to low to moderate-income households. Qualifying individuals with 2010 incomes of \$50,000, and below are eligible and can receive free assistance. Bethpage Federal Credit Union is hosting 10 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Sites at their branches now through April 13 and is expecting to provide this service to more than 1,000 Long Islanders. For more details visit their website, www.hwcli.com.

For those tech savvy individuals, the Internal Revenue Service unveiled their first Smartphone application, "IRS2Go," that lets taxpayers check the status of their tax refund and obtain helpful tax information. It is the latest IRS effort to provide information to taxpayers beyond traditional channels.

MAKE YOUR HOME SECURE: Tips from Nassau County Police Department

Burglary prevention consists of more than having a burglar alarm system. To help prevent your home from becoming a target:

- Set inside lights on timers to turn them on at dusk.
- Do not have packages left in the doorway all day; arrange for a delivery time when you or a neighbor can pick them up.
- Do not place valuables in bureau drawers in the master bedroom.
- Ensure that sliding glass doors and windows have metal pins or a metal bar installed to prevent being pried open.
- Keep a car in the driveway, if possible.
- Even in you have an alarm system, be alert when leaving or entering your home. If you notice someone or something suspicious, report it to the police immediately.

Emergencies, Dial 911. For a security survey of your home, contact the NCPD 6th Precinct: 516-573-6600.



Looking to get Married?

Did you know Mayor Celender is authorized and can perform civil wedding ceremonies in the Plaza? If you, or someone you know, are looking to get married, Mayor Jean Celender is happy to share in your joy and officiate. Call her at 482-4500.

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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Dates to Remember:

- March 4, Poetry Contest Winners announced on the Village of Great Neck Plaza website www.greatneckplaza.net
- March 8, 7:30 p.m., Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Dept.'s Fire Safety Seminar at Atria Great Neck, 51 Great Neck Rd.
- March 15, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Village Election, Plaza Village Hall (Free parking will be designated for voters.)
- April 10, 2 p.m., Plaza's First Poetry Contest Winners Day Reading in Village Hall Courtroom
- April 14, 10 a.m., Senior Span Advisory Committee Meeting, Village Hall
- April 17, 2 to 4 p.m., Great Neck Caregivers Workshop, Village Hall Courtroom
- May 12, 9:30 a.m., Star Performer Ceremony, Village Hall

Every Vote Counts... Don't Forget to Vote!

Are you ready to cast your ballot on Tuesday, March 15th? Remember, every vote is a vote of confidence for the candidate you vote for. On Tuesday, March 15 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Village Hall, 2 Gussack Plaza, the following elected offices will be decided in our Village election:

- Two Trustees for two-year terms
- One Justice for a four-year term

Residents that will be away, are homebound or ill, may request an absentee ballot for the March 15th election. Contact Patricia O'Byrne, Clerk-Treasurer at 482-4500.

You can still register to vote, up to March 5th, for the upcoming election. Voter Registration Forms are available on-line at our website (www.greatneckplaza.org) and copies are available at Village Hall.

The Plaza Welcomes New Merchants

The Village is happy to welcome new businesses that have opened in the Plaza. Stop in and greet these merchants and say "hello." They bring vitality, diversity and new life to our community. If you are a new storeowner in town, or new management, the Plaza would be happy to provide a free Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate your opening. Just call the Mayor's Office at 482-4500. Some recent additions are:

- Bangkok Station Thai Restaurant, 9 Cutter Mill Rd., 829-8200
- Computer Teach, 39 Great Neck Road, 472-0500
- Ella Mia Vintage Clothing, 10 Grace Avenue, 439-5577
- Gelber & Mundy Jewelry, 5 Bond Street, 482-1585
- Jean Marie Patisserie & Bistro, 66 Middle Neck Rd., 304-5439
- Village Market, 17 Middle Neck Road, 773-2406