

**Plaza Voice**  
**Village of Great Neck Plaza**  
**December 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  
 Editor - Michal Pinto

**MIDDLE NECK ROAD TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT  
 PROJECT (TEP) ALMOST COMPLETE**

**Inside this issue:**

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is pleased to announce that we are nearing completion of construction on the Middle Neck Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Enhancement Project (TEP), a downtown economic revitalization project to enhance and improve the business district along North Station Plaza. The project limits encompass the Great Neck train station circulation area north of the ticket building. The goals of the project are to improve pedestrian safety, bicycle parking facilities, and the appearance of streets and sidewalks at the train station, a major gateway to Great Neck Plaza and the entire peninsula.

Prior to reconstruction, which started in the spring, the project area had inadequate and unsightly concrete and asphalt sidewalks running behind the Chamber kiosk and along the parking spaces. There were no benches for seating and a less than desirable site circulation arrangement to direct pedestrians and vehicles accessing the train station. Additionally, the bicycle racks were haphazardly spread out in several poorly located and unprotected areas of the station.

The improvements accomplished under this federally-funded New York State Dept. of Transportation (NYSDOT) - administered TEP reimbursement grant, have replaced the plain, cement sidewalks with new brick sidewalks throughout, utilizing the Village's brick standard. It also removed high, obstructing planter boxes along North Station Plaza, which impeded bus passengers and pedestrians, and replaced them with attractive new at-grade tree pits and benches with a wider sidewalk and new brick pavers to assist

in improved pedestrian safety and access. The crosswalks incorporated ADA compliant curb ramps and there are now more visible pavement crossings and directional arrows to provide for improved pedestrian and vehicle access throughout.

The wide entrance lane opposite Bond Street was narrowed and aligned better with striping for traffic calming. The arrangement for vehicles improved within the train station, as it has been more clearly delineated with new pavement, striping and highly visible pedestrian walkways. Through the installation of new brick walkways, it has created a connection to the existing commuter parking lot situated to the east, which is under the jurisdiction of the Great Neck Park District.

Mayor Jean Celender stated regarding this significant revitalization effort, "We are pleased that we met our goal of providing safety improvements to calm traffic and enhance pedestrian and bicyclist activities in this busy hub area of our village. We have upgraded it with new and more aesthetic sidewalks, resurfaced pavement throughout, increased directional signage and ramps, provided more visible crossings, as well as installed additional site amenities, such as benches, trees, plantings, site lighting, bicycle racks and a beautiful public art mural."

Mayor's Message	2
E- Newsletter Form	
Artist Reception with Bonnie Siracusa	3
Star Performer Award - Nomination Form	4
Parking Tips in the Plaza	
Veterans Day Celebration 2011	5
VGNP Hosts 2nd Annual Poetry Contest	6
Parking for Part-Time and Seasonal Workers	7
VGNP "LI Best Downtown"	
BID's Holiday Gift	
Dates to Remember	8
Plaza Welcomes New Stores	



View of station looking east showing improved circulation area, delineated lanes, ADA compliant curb ramps, highly visible pedestrian crossings, widened pedestrian landings at the ticket booth and Café building, new trees planted at-grade with attractive tree pits, site lighting and landscaping installed.

### Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my greetings and best wishes for the holidays and year ahead. While reflecting on the past year, I am reminded that there is much to be thankful for, including our dedicated village staff and the fine people who make Great Neck Plaza a great place to live, work and shop.

Our Dept. of Public Works crew is staffed and equipped ready to meet Mother Nature's winter storms, which we hope will not be as frequent as last year, and hopefully, an uneventful season. Should information or assistance be needed, feel free to call us at 482-4500, or visit our web site at [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net) for the latest information on Village events and how to contact various Departments, and other special district services.

I encourage everyone to join me in shopping locally this season and frequent our many fine retail stores, restaurants and service establishments. This holiday shopping season was started strong after Thanksgiving with Black Friday and Shop Local Saturday, which the Village provided "Free Parking" for these days to support our local merchants and shoppers. On Sundays, all meters are "Free." Our retailers offer us diverse products and services; everything from clothing and sporting goods to paint your own ceramics and pet pampering gifts. Our merchants are conveniently located within walking distance of most of our apartment buildings and single-family homes.

Additionally, there is ample, "Free" parking in our two structured municipal parking garages after 3 p.m. weekdays and on Saturdays and Sundays, and many more metered spaces in our open lots and on our streets. We even offer meters on the rooftop of the Plaza Centre Garage for seasonal workers that want a daily rate. In this special section, you can purchase up to ten hours with quarters at the same hourly parking rate as 2 or 4-hr meters, twenty-five cents per hour, but it's not limited to a maximum of 4 hours. You do need to complete an

application and obtain a permit sticker from the Village to park in this area. In effect, it is a pay-as-you-go parking area to help our merchants with part-time and seasonal workers who find it difficult to purchase a quarterly parking permit and having to pay in advance at the beginning of the quarter for these months, or for those who are only here in a crunch period of weeks.

Please be safe and enjoy everything this Holiday Season has to offer. Also help us to remember those less fortunate through food, toy and clothing drives or make a year-end donation to a worthwhile charity or local non-profit community organization. These groups rely on our help and support for their operation and to continue providing great programs and services offered for our residents. Remember them in this season of giving.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, we wish you and your family good health and a happy New Year.

Jean A. Celender, Mayor



NYS Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel (left), Mayor Jean Celender (center), and Congressman Gary Ackerman (right) visit the newly renovated station area

### E-Newsletter

**Receive News and Information via E-mail—Join The Plaza's Downtown Buzz E-Newsletter!**

If you would like to receive news and information from our office pertaining to our Village, including our e-newsletter via e-mail, fill out the form below and return it to us at Village Hall. You can also go online to register on the Village's website at [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net). Your submitted information will be used solely by the Mayor's office to keep you current on important matters.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \* \_\_\_\_\_

\* Indicates Optional Information



## Artist Reception with Muralist, Bonnie Siracusa



Pictured from (L to R): Mayor Jean Celender, Frank Morrone, Trustee Pam Marksheid, Alexis Siracusa, Bonnie Siracusa, Katelyn Siracusa, Adam Siracusa, Trustee Marion Green, Historic Preservation Commissioner Mark Bomzer, and Deputy Mayor Ted Rosen

## Looking for Artists to Exhibit in 2012

If you are an emerging or established artist, looking for a new venue to showcase your work, free of charge, then you may want to consider exhibiting with the Village of Great Neck Plaza. Our Village Courtroom, in a public governmental building space, is outfitted as a gallery with hanging wires to accommodate a variety of picture sizes. We are currently putting out this call for artists and portfolio submissions for exhibits in 2012.

Bonnie Siracusa, our most recent artist to exhibit, has been commissioned to do fine art and murals by public, business and private clients for the past 23 years. Her public murals continually beautify, entertain and educate large audiences in schools, post offices, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the Carpenters Union, medical offices, nursing homes, catering halls, bowling alleys, restaurants and retail stores. At the Ryder Station and Coney Island Post offices, murals of Brooklyn's beloved Dodgers, Ebbets Field and Steeple Chase Park give customers a sense of pride and happy memories. To see more of her art please visit her website at: [www.InnerMindsVision.com](http://www.InnerMindsVision.com). If you are interested in purchasing any work from this show, or would like to have her create your very own one-of-a-kind piece of original art, you can contact her through her website or email at [bonniesiracusa@aol.com](mailto:bonniesiracusa@aol.com).

If you wish to consider exhibiting with us, please contact the Mayor's Assistant at (516) 482-4500, or [mayorsassistant@greatneckplaza.net](mailto:mayorsassistant@greatneckplaza.net) to set up an appointment to view your portfolio and see our exhibit hall. Generally an exhibit is displayed for one month. Works can be for sale; however, artists may not label prices on their pieces but instead offer their artwork for sale in a separate handout listing. We are interested in seeing your work and hope you will consider exhibiting in the Plaza.

## Next Star Performer Awards Feb. 2, 2012 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 is a genuine pleasure to do business in the Plaza.

Just fill out the Nomination Form and mail it back to us at Village Hall. It's that simple. Call (516) 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:

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Their employer:

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Four words that best describe the nominee:

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My name & phone number:

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## Friendly Parking in Great Neck Plaza: Helpful parking hints to make your shopping experience in Great Neck Plaza more pleasurable

- When possible, park in municipal lots where the meters give you more time; four hours versus two hours on-street.
- Park between the white lines.
- Check your registration and inspection expiration dates.
- Take advantage of year round FREE PARKING all day on Saturday and Sunday, and daily after 3 p.m. in our two structured municipal garages in the permit spaces at Plaza Center and Maple Drive (Does NOT include street and open lot parking).
- Don't be shy - put an extra quarter in the meters to avoid an expired meter and possibly getting a parking ticket. All of our meters have been reprogrammed to be friendly-meters giving parkers 5 minutes additional parking time at the end of your paid period.
- Change for the parking meters is available at most friendly Plaza merchants.
- Don't park at a broken meter (including "Failed") - you may get ticketed. Please call us at 482-4500 and report the meter as broken so that we can get it checked out and fixed.
- For everyone's safety, please refrain from double parking.

## Veterans Day Celebrations, November 11, 2011 at the Atria Cutter Mill and Atria Great Neck

### In Flanders Fields

#### Lt. Col. John McCrae

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago  
We live, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

### Shiloh: A Requiem (April 1862) Herman Melville (1866)

Skimming lightly, wheeling still,  
The swallows fly low  
Over the field in clouded days,  
The forest-field of Shiloh —  
Over the field where April rain  
Solaced the parched ones stretched in pain  
Through the pause of night  
That followed the Sunday fight  
Around the church of Shiloh —  
The church so lone, the log-built one,  
That echoed to many a parting groan  
And natural prayer  
Of dying foemen mingled there —  
Foemen at morn, but friends at eve —  
Fame or country least their care:  
(What like a bullet can undeceive!)  
But now they lie low,  
While over them the swallows skim,  
And all is hushed at Shiloh.



**Nina Gordon, Engage Life Director at Atria Cutter Mill (far left), and Great Neck Plaza officials honoring veterans at a Veterans Day Celebration**



**Babs Mohel, Engage Life Director at Atria Great Neck (front row far right) joins veterans and Atria residents along with Plaza officials, Boy Scouts Troop 10, honoring Veterans on Veterans Day 2011**

## VGNP Hosts 2nd Annual Poetry Contest

Attention poets and poetry lovers: In celebration of poetry month, April 2012, the Village of Great Neck Plaza in association with Long Island Traditions and coordinated by Poet Carolyn Raphael are proud to announce the 2nd Annual Plaza Poetry Contest. Read on for submission details. Join the contest and come to the Winners Day Reading, open to the public, Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 2 p.m. in Village Hall.

### RULES FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GREAT NECK PLAZA POETRY CONTEST

Residents 18 years of age and above of Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens Counties are invited to submit up to three unpublished poems for a non-refundable fee of \$15. The poems may be on any subject, in any style, to a maximum of 30 lines per poem. The postmark deadline is **January 17, 2012**, and the winners will be announced **March 22, 2012** on the Great Neck Plaza website: [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net). This year's judge is Patti Tana, Professor Emerita of English at Nassau Community College (SUNY) and the author of eight books of poems, most recently *Any Given Day* (Whittier Publications, Inc., 2011). The Walt Whitman Birthplace Association selected her Long Island Poet of the Year 2009. She is the editor of *Songs of Seasoned Women* and an associate editor of the *Long Island Quarterly*. Visit Patti at [www.pattitana.com](http://www.pattitana.com) to hear her read her poems.

#### PRIZES

**First prize: \$150 and a 20-minute reading at the Village Hall on April 22**

**Second prize: \$75 and a 10-minute reading at Village Hall on April 22**

**Third prize: \$50 and a 5-minute reading at Village Hall on April 22**

Only one monetary prize per poet.  
There will be two awards of Honorable Mention.

Each of the three winning poems will be posted for one month on 7 village signposts and bulletin



**Poetry Program Coordinator, Carolyn Raphael (left) with winners of 1st Poetry Contest, April 2011**

board in Great Neck Plaza and in the waiting room of the Great Neck LIRR train station building.

Each poem that wins honorable mention will be posted for two weeks on 7 sign posts and bulletin board in Great Neck Plaza and in the waiting room of the Great Neck LIRR train station building.

Poems must be single-spaced and typed. One poem per page. Each poem should have a title. There should be two copies: one anonymous and one with the poet's name and address below the poem. There should also be a cover sheet listing the poems, the poet's name and address, phone number, and e-mail address.

The poems should be mailed to The Village of Great Neck Plaza, 2 Gussack Plaza, PO Box 440, Great Neck NY 11022-0440, Attn: Poetry Contest.

Please make checks payable to **Long Island Traditions**. Enclose a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope for results, or visit the Great Neck Plaza website, [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net), for announcement of the winners. Contact village Poetry Coordinator, Carolyn Raphael for more information, at [craphael6@yahoo.com](mailto:craphael6@yahoo.com).



## Daily Metered Parking for Part-Time & Seasonal Workers at Plaza Center Garage

In response to our merchants in the Plaza, the village is continuing its seasonal parking program, which designates parking spaces for "Daily Meter Parking by Special Permits Only" on the rooftop of the Plaza Center garage. This reserved metered parking is available on a first come, first served basis and are only available to seasonal and part-time employees of merchants in the Village of Great Neck Plaza.

These employees must first come to Village Hall and obtain a permit to allow them to park in this area. The permit allows parking up to 10 hours daily, at designated meters at a rate of 25 cents per hour. This is the same rate charged for our 2 and 4-hour meters. The employee will be responsible for putting the correct amount of quarters in the meter daily or they will risk being subject to a summons. Likewise, only vehicles with the special permit displayed will be allowed to park in these metered spaces.

This program has resulted in less feeding of the meters at the parking spaces meant for customers. The convenience of an employee parking their vehicle on the roof and not having to "feed the meter" several times a day, will provide peace of mind and no fear of expired meter parking fines for

the employees. It will also represent fewer "quarter" breaks away from the shop, which will benefit the employer.

Employees who want to utilize this special daily metered parking should first come into Village Hall and complete an application to obtain the permit sticker. These permits are only processed between the hours of 9 to 10 a.m. and noon to 1 p.m. For further information, please contact Esther Fogel at 482-4500.



Plaza Center garage with rooftop designated parking for seasonal and part-time workers in the Plaza

### Best of L.I. 2012 Nominates Great Neck Plaza for "Best Downtown"

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is proud to announce that it has been nominated for the Best Downtown in the Shopping Category of "Best of L.I. 2012"!



We are officially in the running to be voted a "Best of Long Island 2012" Winner! You can vote for the Plaza's Downtown under "Shopping" at <http://Bestof.LongIslandPress.com/Vote>. The voting ends December 15. Winners will be announced in January. Show your support by shopping and experiencing all that Great Neck Plaza has to offer.

### Business Improvement District's 2011 Holiday Discount Gift Certificate Program Now Available

The Village of Great Neck Plaza's Business Improvement District is continuing with their popular holiday gift certificate program this year just in time for your holiday shopping. Download your FREE gift certificates at their website: [ShopGreatNeck.com](http://ShopGreatNeck.com)!



Sponsored by the Great Neck Plaza Business Improvement District

## 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](mailto:info@greatneckplaza.net)

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*We're on the web...*

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

### Dates to Remember:

- December 15, at 5 p.m. Ribbon Cutting at To The Pointe, Katya's School of Dance, 40 Middle Neck Road
- December 15, last day to vote Great Neck Plaza for "Best Downtown" <http://bestof.longislandpress.com/vote/>
- December 26, 2:30 p.m. PATV airing of Paul 'Shilts' Weimar 2011 Plaza Summer Concert Channel 20 on Cablevision and Channel 37 on Verizon FIOS. See [www.PATV.org](http://www.PATV.org) for more scheduling dates of this and other local cable programming.
- January 17, 2012 postmark deadline for Village of Great Neck Plaza 2nd Annual Poetry Contest
- February 2, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. Star Performer Award Ceremony
- March 22, 2012 Poetry Contest Winners Announcement at [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net)
- April 22, 2012 at 2 p.m. Awards Day Poetry Contest Reading open to the public at Village Hall

## 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 re-openings in the Plaza included the following:

- Laverne of Great Neck, 9 Cutter Mill Road, Japanese, French Fusion and Thai Restaurant
- To The Pointe: Katya's School of Dance, 40 Middle Neck Road
- 16 Handles, 40A Middle Neck Road, Frozen Yogurt Your Way
- Dougie's Kosher BBQ and Grill, 105 Middle Neck Road



The Village of Great Neck Plaza recently celebrated the grand opening of Laverne of Great Neck with village officials, members of the Chamber of Commerce, Town of North Hempstead, family, neighbors and friends.

Laverne has already been nominated as one of Long Island's best places for Fusion food by Best of Long Island. Stop on by, you'll be happy you did!