

# Plaza Voice

Village of Great Neck Plaza  
June 2012



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 - Brian Hetey

## Summer Concert Series, Promenade Night, Back in Great Neck Plaza!

## Inside the Voice:

**It's all happening...right here in GREAT NECK PLAZA**

- SIDEWALK SALE** JUNE 14 – JUNE 17
- THURSDAY PROMENADE NIGHTS:**
  - BOND ST JUNE 14
  - MIDDLE NECK RD JULY 12
  - BOND ST JULY 26
  - MIDDLE NECK RD AUGUST 9
- 28TH ANNUAL AUTOFEST/STREET FESTIVAL** SEPTEMBER 9

[www.ShopGreatNeck.com](http://www.ShopGreatNeck.com)

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Mark your calendars Great Neckers! The Village of Great Neck Plaza and its Business Improvement District (BID) is lining up another summer filled of wonderful outdoor dining, music, and shopping. Beginning in June, the Plaza will be hosting our widely popular 2012 Summer Concert Series, annual Sidewalk Sale, festive filled Promenade Nights, and other special community events.

When summer arrives in the Plaza, you are almost certain to see one thing; people singing and dancing along to the fantastic acts that we have participating in our annual Summer Concert Series at Jon's Park. A huge success in the past years of holding this series, this year's performers will have you humming along to some of your favorite songs. Returning performers, Seven Bridges Road Band, Paul "Shilts" Weimar, Mary Lamont Band, Ramp Family Caribbean Band, Phil Costa's Something Special Big Band, Savannah Sky and Dr. Pam Levy will once again leave you in awe with their musical talents. New acts, such as The Fabulous "SixTies" Rock Show, Ricky Pen, and the Paul Joseph Trio will quickly steal your heart away with their performances.

As part of our Summer Concert Series this year, the Village will be holding our first local talent night, showcasing some of the most talented musicians and singers in Great Neck that you won't want to miss. We are very excited about all the magnificent acts that will be performing this summer and we hope you will be able to join us for a night of singing and dancing. Be sure to look on page 7 for the full 2012 Summer Concert Series lineup.

One of our other favorite summer events is our promenade nights. Always a popular event, the first promenade night is slated for Bond Street on Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Promenade night returns for two more nights of fun in July, with the first Middle Neck Road promenade of the summer taking place on July 12<sup>th</sup>, and then a return to Bond Street two weeks later on July 26<sup>th</sup>. The fourth and final promenade night of the summer is scheduled to take place on August 9<sup>th</sup> on Middle Neck Road. As usual, Bond Street and Middle Neck Road will be temporarily closed on the nights of their respective promenade, allowing residents to gather with family, friends, and neighbors for a night of great music, dining al fresco, shopping, and enjoying a family night out. Be sure to stop by and experience the festive atmosphere of the Plaza's downtown.

All of the Plaza's summer festivities are within walking distance to on-street, municipal (Lot 4, across from Village Hall, and Lot 2, located on Bond Street and Grace Avenue), and garage (Plaza Centre and Maple Drive) parking, and the LIRR Great Neck station. Parking in the garages is free after 3 p.m., as is the case after 6 p.m. in the metered municipal lots and on-street parking. For more information on these and other wonderful events happening this summer in the Plaza, feel free to contact us at Village Hall, (516) 482-4500, check our website, [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net), or contact the Great Neck Plaza BID at (516) 829-1301 and visit their website at [www.shopgreatneck.com](http://www.shopgreatneck.com).



## Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying this spring, which has been quite warm and sunny for the last several weeks. There are many exciting activities to report and plans for the upcoming summer season.

Summer is always my favorite season as I look forward to our Summer Concert Series in the gazebo at Jon’s Park on Grace Avenue. Brian Hetey, my assistant and concert organizer, has helped me bring to you many fine artists and performers to add to the enjoyment of this live music program in the park. We like to offer a variety of music genres, so there’s something for everyone. The concerts start on Tuesday, June 12. This year we are launching our first “Local Talent Night” to showcase Great Neck’s musicians and singers, of all ages, on June 19 at 8 p.m. in Jon’s Park. It stands to be a fun night to cheer on our local artists who want to perform in front of family and friends.

Our thanks to the Great Neck Park District for the use of Jon’s Park, to the Great Neck Senior Center for the Senior Center as an indoor space if there’s inclement weather, and to Regina Gil, our Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, and the Great Neck Arts Center for their support on this favorite program. We also appreciate the help from our many sponsors, our merchants and local organizations that help us defray the costs of these shows. There are still full and partial sponsorships of these weekly shows, and at affordable levels – a full concert is \$1,000 and half/quarter sponsorships are \$500 and \$250, respectively. We also have a \$100 supporter level. If you’d like to participate, please contact me, or my assistant, Brian Hetey, at (516) 482-4500. Sponsors are recognized in the program printed materials, in press releases and are given an opportunity to help announce their sponsored show(s) and meet/greet participants in the park with literature and handouts.

We hope you took advantage and frequented our fine restaurants during the Plaza’s recent “Restaurant Week.” Many restaurants have continued their prix fixe dinner menus and some look to continue them when we host our upcoming

promenade nights. We are planning, with the Plaza’s Business Improvement District (BID), to launch the first Thursday night block party on June 14th on Bond Street, closing it off for pedestrian traffic only, making it a promenade, with live music and dining al fresco at the Bond Street restaurants. These promenade nights, which are in the 5th annual season, are well-received by the community and again stand to be great events. Do come out and enjoy downtown Great Neck Plaza; try a restaurant, listen to live music and have a fun-filled evening in your own hometown! See Pages 1 and 7 for a complete listing of the 2012 Promenade Nights and Summer Concerts.

I wish you all a wonderful, relaxing summer. I hope to see you under the stars for a moonlit dance in Jon’s Park or for a dinner and stroll on a promenade night. Come join me, the Trustees, and your neighbors for some entertaining music, in a lovely park setting or a closed downtown street, where we can take time to enjoy and unwind in the lazy days of summer.

The Board of Trustees and I are pleased to announce that our first workforce housing units will become available shortly at 245-265 Great Neck Road under our Affordable Housing Program. We had an extensive effort of conducting planning studies, environmental review, and public outreach to initially adopt this program back in 2005. We are delighted that in the near future persons will be benefitting from these efforts. Please stay tuned and check with us if you believe you meet the categorical and income qualifications (see related article on Page 5). More information and notices will be published in the coming weeks.

Enjoy your summer!



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 our e-newsletter via e-mail, fill out the form below and return it to us at Village Hall. You can also go on-line to register on the Village’s web site 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

\* Indicates Optional Information



## 2012 Prom Dress Drive a Huge Success!

Thanks to the generosity of the people of Great Neck, dozen upon dozens of prom dresses, handbags, and accessories have been collected for the Women of Integrity's second annual prom dress drive. Responding to articles in the *Great Neck Record* and the *Great Neck News* asking for gently used prom dresses and other accessories, Great Neck residents came out in waves and donated an amazing 97 prom dresses! A big thanks goes out to Ken Bleck of Nu-Clear Cleaners, located at 172 Middle Neck Road, for generously offering free dry cleaning services for gowns that were donated as part of this wonderful cause, and to the Inn at Great Neck for allowing us to use their wardrobe rack during the drive.



Mayor Celender (left) with Women of Integrity's Shantay Carter (center) and Shantelle McIntyre (right) reviewing the donated prom dresses.

Women of Integrity Inc. is a non-profit organization located in Hempstead, New York, dedicated to empowering and educating women of all ages and ethnicities. For more information

on Women of Integrity Inc. or this wonderful cause, feel free to visit their website, [www.womenofintegrityinc.com](http://www.womenofintegrityinc.com), or contact them at [woiinc2011@gmail.com](mailto:woiinc2011@gmail.com).

### Did You Know...?

#### VGNP Free Shopper Bus Service

We Transport Inc.

349-8200



VGNP Shopper Bus

Routes Mondays and

Wednesdays

... that the Village of Great Neck Plaza has a **FREE** shopper bus service? Well we do! Great Neck Plaza's free shopper bus service, servicing the community for many years, picks up residents at their homes every Monday and Wednesday, takes them to the Gardens of Great Neck Shopping Center to eat, shop or make a stop at the pharmacy or bank, and then drops people back at their home approximately two hours later every. The drivers have been wonderful in assisting shoppers carry their heavy bagged groceries to their doors. This service is not limited to just senior citizens; younger residents are more than welcome to utilize the Plaza's shopper bus.

If you would like to take the Plaza's shopper bus, please contact Erin at We Transport at (516) 349-8200, ext. 132 for home pickup. Tell Erin your name, address, and phone number, and Erin will call you back with your scheduled shopper bus pickup time. For additional information on the free shopper bus service, feel free to contact Sheryl De Los Rios at Village Hall, (516) 482-4500, or visit our website, [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net), and click on "Shopper Bus" tab on the right hand side of the homepage.

## Aging With Style and Grace, Mary Cumba Turns 101!



**Mayor Celender presented Mary Cumba a proclamation celebrating her 101st birthday. Stated Mayor Celender, “Mary inspires many around her with her wisdom, humor, and strong ties to her many friends. All of these wonderful characteristics are a testament to Mary’s longevity.”**

The Village of Great Neck Plaza recently had the pleasure of celebrating the birthday of an extraordinary woman. Last month, Grace Plaza Nursing and Rehabilitation Center resident, Mary Cumba, celebrated her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday in a fun filled party that could describe Mary’s personality to a T; full of energy, excitement, and laughter.

Mary is extremely proud of her age and of her abilities. You may think that Mary needs lots of help at her age, but Mary is independent in many ways. She lived on her own right up until her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and still regularly joins in on many activities at Grace Plaza. Even at the young age of 101, Mary still regularly participates in daily hour long exercise sessions at the Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. According to the staff at Grace Plaza, Mary is quite the social butterfly, socializing with friends, family, and staff, and actively participating in discussions of current events and Grace Plaza events. Mary truly

does brighten everyone’s day, always having a lovely smile on her face and saying hello to everyone she sees.

While Mary can’t remember every detail of her life, “It was so long ago,” says Mary, she did manage to tell us a little bit about her background. She was born in New Jersey in 1911 to a very large family; Mary was one of ten children. Mary’s family moved to Hybernia, PA shortly after she was born and settled down there for the duration of Mary’s schooling. In her later teens, the family relocated to NYC where she got a job working in Childs Restaurant, one of the first and largest national chains of restaurants in the United States during the 1920s and 1930s. Mary worked at Childs for a few years, working her way up to the role of hostess at the restaurant. It was at Childs where Mary says she met, and fell in love, with one of the cooks, Henry Cumba. After a year of marriage to Henry, Mary retired from Childs to start a family. After her four children got older and left home, Mary stayed busy, teaching knitting classes in her community for many years. Showing her passion for life and socializing, Mary admits she was reluctant to retire teaching knitting classes, “If my eyes were a little better, I would still be teaching,” Mary stated.



**Mary blows out all 101 candles on her birthday cake!**

## Nassau County Announces Future Rent Guidelines Board Meetings

Nassau County has announced the dates of two Rent Guidelines Board meetings coming up in June. The first meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, June 20th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Nassau County Legislative Building (One West Street, 5th Floor, Mineola, NY), will be hearing arguments from both landlords and tenants regarding the current state of rent rates in Nassau County. A second meeting will be held on Monday, June 25th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Nathan Bennett Pavilion in the Town of Hempstead's Town Hall Plaza (1 Washington Street, Hempstead, NY), to discuss the findings of the previous Rent Guidelines board meeting. A vote will then be held to rule on the issue of rent rates in Nassau County for new 1 year and 2 year leases in ETPA units. For more information, feel free to contact Sheryl De Los Rios at Village Hall at (516) 482-4500.

## NOAA Predicts a Near-Normal 2012 Atlantic Hurricane Season



**Hurricane Irene in 2011 was a reminder that tropical systems can affect the Northeast and are a threat for inland flooding.**

With hurricane season beginning June 1st, the Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA) is once again warning people not to take any tropical storm or hurricane threats lightly, "Every hurricane season we ask families, communities, and businesses to ensure they are prepared and visit [www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes)," said Tim Manning, FEMA deputy administrator for protection and national preparedness. "Being prepared includes developing a family emergency plan, putting an emergency kit together or updating your existing kit, keeping important papers and valuables in a safe place, and getting involved to ensure your community is ready." Irene in 2011 was a reminder that tropical storms can affect our area, and we should be prepared for this new hurricane season.

## Development of Program Application for VGNP Affordable Housing Program



**Nineteen one-bedroom and two-bedroom affordable housing units will be available soon to Great Neck residents at 245-265 Great Neck Road.**

In 2005, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Great Neck Plaza enacted a law to encourage the construction of affordable housing units within the Village. In approximately the Fall of 2012, for the first time, nineteen affordable housing units will become available under this program. These are one-bedroom and two-bedroom units in a rental apartment building (containing a total of 93 rental units) located at 245-265 Great Neck Road in the Village. These units are available to single persons or families who meet certain categorical and financial eligibility guidelines, as well as the standards applicable to other tenants. If you qualify for this program, your annual rent will be limited to thirty percent (30%) of your household's annual gross income.

If you believe you might satisfy the eligibility requirements for an affordable housing unit, you will have to submit a written application and corroborating written information, and may also have to attend an in-person interview. An application fee will also be charged. All applications received by a specified cut-off day will be randomly ranked. It is anticipated that eligibility determinations will be made by approximately September 2012.

The details of this program are still being finalized, and application forms will not be available until the latter part of June 2012. At this time, it appears that priority for these units will go to members of the Vigilant or Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Departments who have at least five years of service; combat veterans residing in the Village; persons over 65 years of age or under 30 years of age who have resided within the Village for certain periods of time; and persons who have worked for the Village for certain periods of time. If there are an insufficient number of such persons who qualify, then eligibility may also be extended to qualified persons on the Great Neck Peninsula or in Nassau County who satisfy similar criteria.

Further information and application forms regarding this program will be available in the latter part of June 2012. If you are interested, you should check the Village's website, [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net), or contact us at Village Hall, (516) 482-4500, in a few weeks for additional information.

## Next Star Performer Awards

### September 20, 2012



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 live, work, shop and play. 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 Brian Hetey, Mayor's Assistant, at (516) 482-4500 for more information or to nominate a "Star Performer," and join us on Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. for a really "feel good" ceremony at Village Hall.

### "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, Attn: Star Performer.** 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Call for Artists; Village of Great Neck Plaza Looking for Artists to Exhibit

If you are an emerging or established artist, looking for a new venue to showcase your work, then you may want to consider exhibiting with the Village of Great Neck Plaza. We are interested in seeing your work and publicly displaying it in the community.

Our court room, in a public municipal 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 for the remainder of 2012.

If you wish to consider exhibiting with us, please contact the Mayor's Assistant, at (516) 482-4500, or email [mayorsassistant@greatneckplaza.net](mailto:mayorsassistant@greatneckplaza.net), to set up an appointment to view your portfolio and our exhibit hall. Generally an exhibit is displayed for approximately 4 to 6 weeks. Works can be for sale; however, artists may not label prices on their pieces, and instead may offer their artwork for sale in a separate catalog handout listing.



**A recent art exhibit showing the wonderful artwork by Katherine Trunk. (L-R) Trustee Pam Marksheid, Katherine Trunk's mother, Katherine Trunk, Mayor Jean Celender and Trustee Marion Green.**



# 2012 Summer Concerts Series

## Presented by the Village of Great Neck Plaza

In Jonathan L. Ielpi Firefighters Park (Jon's Park) Tuesday nights at 8PM\*

### PRICELESS ENTERTAINMENT, FREE CONCERTS!

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PERFORMANCE</u>
June 12	....Seven Bridges Road Band, "Rock and Roll Through the Decades (50s - 80s)"....
June 19	.....Great Neck Local Musicians, "You Got Talent Night".....
June 26	.....Ricky Pen, "Middle Eastern Music Salute".....
July 3	.....Great Neck Arts Center Presents, "Paul Joseph Trio".....
July 10	.....Mary Lamont Band, "Long Island Country".....
July 17	.....The Fabulous "SixTies" Rock Show.....
July 24	.....Savannah Sky, "Western Swing".....
July 31	.....Ramp Family Caribbean Band, "Caribbean Calypso & Reggae".....
August 7	.....Plaza Theatrics, "All Night Strut".....
August 14	.....Paul 'Shilts' Weimar, "Smooth Jazz Gets Funky".....
August 21	.....Phil Costa's Something Special Big Band, "Swinging the New Millennium".....
August 28	.....Dr. Pam Levy, "Say Goodbye to Summer - Classic & Opera Music Night".....

Presented by the Village of Great Neck Plaza

In cooperation with the Great Neck Park District, the Great Neck Senior Center and the Great Neck Arts Center

Sponsorships are still available for our concerts by contacting us at (516) 482-4500. We will identify your business on the program and will invite you to introduce your business before the concert begins. With your sponsorship, you help us to defray our costs and bring these great shows to our Great Neck residents.

We would like to thank our growing list of sponsors and supporters, including:

**Astoria Federal Savings Bank, Atria Senior Living, Daruma of Tokyo, Grace Plaza Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Katya School of Dance and the Great Neck Arts Center**

\* The Great Neck Senior Center (80 Grace Avenue) will be utilized for an indoor performance in the event of inclement weather. Check with staff at Village Hall on the day of the concert, or call our voicemail after 5 P.M. at (516) 482 - 4500. We will have a recorded message if the day's scheduled concert has been moved away from Jon's Park.



## 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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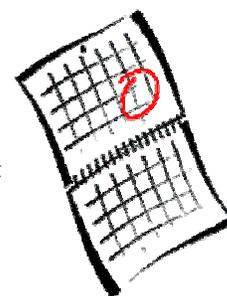
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*We're on the web...*

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

### Dates to Remember:

- June 12 - First Summer Concert in the Park, Seven Bridges Road Band, 8 p.m. in Jon's Park at Grace Avenue
- June 14 - Bond Street Promenade, 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
- June 14 - June 17th - Great Neck Plaza Sidewalk Sale
- June 19 - Summer Concert Series, "Performers' Showcase," Local Talent Night, 8 p.m. in Jon's Park at Grace Avenue
- June 20 - Rent Guidelines Board Presentation on Rent Rates - Nassau County Legislative Building
- June 25 - Rent Guidelines Board Vote on Rent Rates - Town of Hempstead, Town Hall, Nathan Bennett Pavilion, One Washington Street, Hempstead
- June 26 - Summer Concert Series, "Middle Eastern Music Salute" - Ricky Pen, 8 p.m. in Jon's Park at Grace Avenue
- July 12 - Middle Neck Road Promenade, 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
- July 26 - Bond Street Promenade, 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
- August 9 - Middle Neck Road Promenade, 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.



**SAVE THE DATE:** Sunday, September 9, Noon - 5 p.m., our Annual AutoFest, Street Fair, Clothesline Art Show (**Rain Date:** Sunday, September 16)

## 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, new management, or are celebrating a milestone anniversary, the Plaza would be happy to provide a free Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate your event. Just call the Mayor's Office at 482-4500. Some recent additions are:

- Dougie's BBQ & Grill, 105 Middle Neck Road, (516) 773-3684
- Tokyo Naru Sushi, 25 Cutter Mill Road, (516) 504-4622
- Fixx Boutique, 25 Cutter Mill Road, (516) 441-5551



**A recent ribbon cutting event welcoming Tokyo Naru Sushi's new management to Great Neck Plaza.**