

**Plaza Voice**  
*Village of Great Neck Plaza*  
 June 2013



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

Trustees Ted M. Rosen, Gerry Schneiderman, Pam Marksheid, and Lawrence R. Katz

Clerk Treasurer - Patricia O'Byrne

Editor - Brian Hetey

**Village Board of Trustees Modifies Affordable (Workforce) Housing Program Law; Eligibility Requirements Relaxed**



**255 Great Neck Road**

In April, the Board of Trustees approved modifications to the Village's Affordable (Workforce) Housing Program expanding the eligibility requirements of the program. Since the fall of 2012, the Village has solicited multiple rounds of applications to fill the 19 affordable rental housing units at the recently completed apartment building at 255 Great Neck Road. This is the first building in the C-2 District to have been built since the Village adopted a local law to encourage the provision of affordable (workforce) housing units within the Village, which was enacted in 2005. There were initially 9 one-bedroom and 10 two-bedroom affordable (workforce) rental units at 255 Great Neck Road that were available to single persons or families that meet certain categorical and financial eligibility guidelines, as well as standards applicable to other tenants in the building, including credit standards. At present, some of these units have been leased, but some are still available.

Recent trends have shown that since the economic downturn in 2007, young professionals go on to obtain advanced degrees and pursue educational goals before entering the work force or forming new households. Thus, the Board felt that, while affordable housing is needed, if we want to retain young professionals who grew up in the area to stay here, the age limit of 30 might be too restrictive in reaching this goal. By extending the age eligibility requirements to 40 years old, the Village Board of Trustees felt we would better achieve this objective of keeping young professionals in Great Neck. Residency requirements were also modified for persons under the age of 40 in that applicants must have lived in Great Neck Plaza or the Great Neck

Peninsula for 10 of the last 15 years, or 10 consecutive years prior to the date of application for those living in Nassau County. Similarly, residency eligibility requirements for applicants 65 years of age or older were modified as well. For those applicants 65 years of age or older, an applicant must have lived in either Great Neck Plaza or the Great Neck Peninsula for at least 15 out of the last 20 years, or 15 consecutive years prior to the date of application for those living in Nassau County.

There have also been few firefighters and emergency response personnel that have applied to the program. In order to address this issue, the length of service an applicant would have had to serve has been shortened from 5 consecutive years to 2 consecutive years prior to the date of application. This change will assist the local fire departments in recruiting and retaining new volunteers as the provision of affordable housing often is cited as a reason that it is difficult to find persons willing to serve in these community organizations.

The Village Board is optimistic these modifications will see a rise in the number of applications being submitted by applicants. Stated Mayor Celender, "We're hopeful that by relaxing the categorical eligibility requirements for these individuals, the Village will have more persons who are now eligible and can apply for an Affordable (Workforce) Housing unit. We're excited to have these 19 units and want to see them all filled as soon as possible with those who will benefit most."

With the adoption of these changes, the Village has revised applications available to those individuals who believe they are eligible on the Village website, [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net), and at Village Hall, Monday – Friday, between 9 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. Notices in the local newspapers are being published and additional outreach will also be conducted by the Village to solicit more applications for these remaining affordable (workforce) rental units. Submitted applications will be reviewed twice a month, the fifteenth of each month and at the end of each calendar month, and will be randomly ranked for selection purposes. For more information, contact Pat O'Byrne, Village Clerk, or Brian Hetey, Mayor's Assistant, via telephone (516) 482-4500, or email [info@greatneckplaza.net](mailto:info@greatneckplaza.net).

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## Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

This past April I was pleased to be a panelist on Vision Long Island's "2013 Complete Streets Summit" held at the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College in East Farmingdale. Complete Streets are streets designed to accommodate all users and abilities, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders. It has been the village's goal over the past decade of implementing five major transportation safety improvement and traffic calming projects through New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) grants to incorporate the design principles of Complete Streets. Gathered at the Summit were several hundred elected officials, transportation professionals, engineering consultants, civic leaders, and other representatives. I explained the scope and features of the village's completed projects, which have made it safer and easier for people to walk and bicycle in downtown Great Neck Plaza. I highlighted that while much has been done, there is more work ahead, and we will continue to pursue implementation of additional roadway and infrastructure improvements to add to our comprehensive program.

We are busy getting ready for the warmer weather, outdoor activities and the summer season. It is a favorite time of year for many of us. We are currently busy with replanting and beautifying our green spaces, parks and streetscape with new trees and shrubs, potted floral arrangements and hanging flowering baskets. We hope you enjoyed the beautiful yellow

and purple pansies that adorned our terra cotta sidewalk pots for many weeks in the spring.

We remind residents and merchants to help us in spring spruce-up efforts by cleaning your windows, awnings and sidewalk areas and assist us in keeping the village attractive, clean and litter-free. Encourage shoppers and visitors to utilize our garbage receptacles for the proper disposal of waste, and observe that we have special recyclable bins for returnable water bottles and aluminum cans. Merchants should dispose of waste from their business properly and in accordance with the Village rules and regulations contained in our Village Code. Also, do not dispose garbage from your business in or next to our green trash receptacles. These receptacles are for shoppers and visitors and to keep our sidewalks clean and free of litter. Certainly no garbage should be placed for collection on the sidewalk overnight, or at any time other than during the time specified for collection. This goes for the retail, commercial and residential areas of the Village. If you are new to the Village or want further information about garbage storage, disposal and the appropriate hours, please contact the Building Department at Village Hall at (516) 482-4500.

I want to wish you a healthy and wonderful summer! I look forward to seeing you all at our summer concerts and promenade events.



Jean A. Celender, Mayor



## Plaza Now Accepting Online Parking Violation Payments

Starting May 15<sup>th</sup>, you can now pay most Village of Great Neck Plaza parking tickets online by credit/debit card. This payment option is being provided as a convenient alternative to appearing in person at Village Hall, or mailing in your payment for a parking ticket obligation. Please note that this online payment system is currently limited to parking tickets ONLY. Payment of moving violations returnable to the Village of Great Neck Plaza are not part of this initial roll out of credit card payment, although it may be in the future.

People can access the new online payment system by visiting our website, [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net), and clicking on the "Pay Parking Ticket Online" on the left hand side. You will be brought to a secure website where you can enter your information and make your selection and payment online. Users will need to know either their summons # or vehicle license plate # before using the online payment system. The Village of Great Neck Plaza will accept credit card payments online via a MasterCard, VISA, or Discover card account. This new service allows users the convenience of paying any current and/or outstanding parking ticket(s) issued by the Village of Great Neck Plaza over a secure website using these three major credit cards without having to leave their home. Once a payment is processed online, our records at the Village of Great Neck Plaza will be updated accordingly, in real-time, and your parking ticket will be marked as paid. If you have more than one ticket, you can choose which ticket(s) you want to pay by credit card.



In order to offer you this service, you must agree to a User Agreement and a convenience fee charged for using a credit card. If you don't agree to both of these items, you can still always come in and pay in person at Village Hall. Pattianne DiRosa, Village Court Clerk, has done an outstanding job to oversee the implementation of this new payment program. The Board of Trustees would like to thank Pattianne for making this possible. Once again, Great Neck Plaza is in the forefront of municipalities by offering enhanced services in our court, such as credit card use online, for parking ticket payments.

## Summer Concert Series, Promenade Nights, Quickly Approaching!



Concert-goers enjoy Plaza Theatrics' performance during last year's summer concert series. This summer's lineup of events in the Plaza is sure to be filled with fun and excitement.

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 2013 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 Firefighters' 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, Ramp Family Caribbean Band, Phil Costa's Something Special Big Band, Ricky Pen and Dr. Pam Levy will once again leave you in awe with their musical talents. New and returning acts from several years ago, such as The McLean Avenue Band, Rear View Mirror Band, Mambo Loco and

JC Diva will quickly steal your heart away with their performances.

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 2013 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 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Promenade night returns for another night of fun in July, with the first Middle Neck Road promenade of the summer taking place on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The third and final promenade night of the summer is scheduled to take place on August 22<sup>nd</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.

Also, don't forget about the BID's annual sidewalk sale. From June 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, some of your favorite Great Neck shops and boutiques will be offering shoppers a special four-day sale on various items throughout their stores. Go for a stroll through the Plaza and shop at the same time, what can be better?

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, (516) 829-1301, or visit their website, [www.shopgreatneck.com](http://www.shopgreatneck.com).

**SPRING INTO SAVINGS  
IN THE PLAZA**

**ShopGreatNeck.com  
or Call 516-829-1301  
FREE Gift Certificates**

SPONSORED BY THE GREAT NECK PLAZA BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

**To stay up-to-date on all the latest Plaza retail promotions and discounts, make sure you visit the Great Neck Plaza BID's website!**



## Long-time Plaza Staff Member, Sheryl De Los Rios, Retires

This past September, the Village of Great Neck Plaza bid a fond farewell to a devoted staff member known for her passion, enthusiasm and dedication for providing the best service she could to the people who entrusted her with helping them with their most pressing issues. After almost 13 years as Village Housing Commissioner, Sheryl De Los Rios retired, leaving behind a legacy that Village residents and personnel will never forget.

Known for always going the extra mile to help out the people she interacted with on a day-to-day basis, Sheryl began her tenure as Village Housing Commissioner in October of 1999 under the tutelage of her predecessor, the late Jeanne Kippel. From her first day on the job, Sheryl built strong relationships to the people she would tirelessly help over the next 12 years. Sheryl's commitment to her tasks earned her countless amounts of praise from Village residents, earning her

numerous awards from the Village for her positive impact on the quality of life in the Plaza. At an event honoring Sheryl on the day of her retirement, Mayor Jean Celender summed up just how much Sheryl meant to the Plaza

Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (S.C.R.I.E) program among many other projects, Sheryl always had a huge impact on Village affairs. More important than anything else, Sheryl will be remembered for her gregarious personality, her infectious laugh, her ability to engage people from every walk of life, no matter their age or background, and her compassionate approach to people."



**Sheryl De Los Rios (center), surrounded by Village staff on her last day of work. De Los Rios served as Village Housing Commissioner for almost 13 years.**

The Village of Great Neck Plaza staff, Village Board and mayor extend our sincere and grateful appreciation to Sheryl De Los Rios and wish her continued success, happiness and all the best in retirement. Plaza SCRIE residents are

and its residents, "From representing the Village at Nassau County Rent Guideline Board meetings, running the, 'I Don't Have a Garage, Garage Sale' events, meeting with residents to discuss street permits and other concerns, and spearheading the Senior

advised that Ana Quinones has taken over administratively on this program at Village Hall. For any questions or assistance, please contact Ana at (516) 482-4500.

## Astoria Federal Savings Hosts Great Neck Brownies and Daises

The Great Neck Branch of Astoria Federal Savings recently hosted a program with Great Neck Brownie Troop #642 and Daises Troop #601 as part the bank's *Teach Children to Save* community program. Representatives from Astoria Federal Savings taught the Brownies valuable lessons on the importance of saving their money from a young age. Branch manager Joan Usinki and Troop Leader Jacqueline Finnigan stressed to the troops that saving money early in life helps build a solid plan for financial choices and success in the future. There's no better time than now.

As part of their afternoon at Astoria Federal Savings, the troop was led on a tour of the bank, with the highlight being the chance to step inside the bank's safe deposit vault. Mayor Celender, who participated in the event, remarked how mature the young Brownies and Daises were in their goal to save their money for their future. The entrepreneurial instincts and ideas for new ventures were quite apparent!



**Members from the Great Neck Brownie Troop #642 and Daises Troop #601 learned the advantages of saving money from a young age.**

## VGNP Debuts New On-Hold Voice Mail System

Have you called Village Hall lately and noticed anything different when placed on hold? Rather than hearing the generic recordings that previously greeted callers when placed on hold, the Village has installed a new voice mail system with the voices of actual staff members from each one of the Village's departments. The messages are an eclectic mix of ages and cultures that make up the Village staff and is representative of the melting pot community that is Great Neck Plaza.

The messages, which were put into rotation at the end of March, contain an enlightening array of information regarding the Plaza's history and upcoming events. Among the 15 plus messages recorded by staff members, callers will hear information on the Plaza's downtown business district, how to obtain building and parking permits, upcoming summer concerts, Board of Trustees meetings and court dates, as well as information on the Village's Affordable (Workforce) Housing Program.

Mayor Celender and the Board of Trustees would like to thank Village Court Clerk, Pattianne DiRosa, for her initiative in undertaking this program. Not only did Clerk DiRosa research and find a more cost-effective way to update the Village's message system, which hadn't been done in some years, she enhanced the relevancy and content of the messages, and made it a fun inclusive project for staff members.



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



April 2013 Artists of the Month; Students from Great Neck South Middle School, pictured with their teacher, Mrs. Smith (center).

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, located at Village Hall, 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 2013.

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.

## Help Prevent Stray Shopping Carts

The Village of Great Neck Plaza wants to remind you that it is illegal to leave or abandon a shopping cart on any public property. After seeing sidewalks and streets littered with stray shopping carts, the Village Board of Trustees adopted a local law in 2010 making it illegal for overseers of shopping carts to leave unattended carts on property other than their own. We urge residents not to take shopping carts off store premises in order to eliminate this unnecessary eyesore. Abandoned carts found on public property within the Village's boundaries will be collected by Village staff and brought back to the Village's Department of Public Works (DPW). Carts will only be released to businesses after payment is collected for the impound fee of collected carts.

Help us stop the nuisance and eyesore created when carts are left abandoned on Village streets and sidewalks. If you see an abandoned cart, please call Village Hall at (516) 482-4500 and report its location to Village staff so we can notify our DPW crew.



An abandoned shopping cart on Grace Avenue.

## Earth Day Celebration, April 22, 2013 Village of Great Neck Plaza & Long Island Hebrew Academy



Mayor Celender and students from Mrs. Simonds' Long Island Hebrew Academy class 5th grade in front of "Branchie," the Village's new Little Leaf Linden tree planted during Earth Day 2013.

On April 22, a fifth grade class of five students from the Long Island Hebrew Academy (LIHA) joined Mayor Celender in a ceremony in recognition of the 43rd annual observance of Earth Day. With the Village having lost more than a dozen trees during Superstorm Sandy's fierce winds, the best way to celebrate Earth Day 2013 this year seemed to be a tree planting ceremony. The students met the Mayor and Village Department of Public Workers (DPW) staff at Village Hall before walking across the street to the outdoor parking lot on Gussack Plaza for the tree planting ceremony, where Superintendent Ivor Belgrave and his staff had prepared a spot for the Village's new tree along the retaining wall of the lot.

After discussing with the students the meaning of Earth Day and why we celebrate it, Mayor Celender read a poem by Jane Yolen entitled, "Earth Day," to commence the planting ceremony of a Little Leaf Linden tree. The students watched as DPW staff planted and shared facts about the Village's newest tree addition, which was appropriately named "Branchie," by the class. The LIHA students were very enthusiastic during the Earth Day festivities and vowed to come visit the tree periodically to track its growth.

The Village would like to extend thanks to LIHA Principal Sharyn Blaustein, Mrs. Simonds and her five delightful students for helping the Village celebrate this special event and caring about their community.



### "Earth Day"

by Jane Yolen



*I am the Earth  
And the Earth is me.  
Each blade of grass,  
Each honey tree,  
Each bit of mud,  
And stick and stone  
Is blood and muscle,  
Skin and bone.*

*And just as I  
Need every bit  
Of me to make  
My body fit,  
So earth needs  
Grass and stone and tree  
And things that grow here  
Naturally.*



*That's why we  
Celebrate this day.  
That's why across  
The world we say:  
As long as life,  
As dear, as free,  
I am the Earth  
And the Earth is me.*



Mayor Celender and the students from the Long Island Hebrew Academy watch on as DPW staff plant the Village's newest tree, "Branchie."

# 2013 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

PRESENTED BY THE VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

**PRICELESS ENTERTAINMENT, FREE CONCERTS**

**\*Tuesday nights, starting at 8 P.M., join us for a night of music under the stars at Firefighters' Park (Jon's Park)!**

**DATE**

**PERFORMANCE**

June 11	.....Great Neck Arts Center Presents, "Your Big Break Finale".....
June 18	.....Mamba Loco, "Summer's Sizzling Salsa Beat".....
June 25	.....The McLean Avenue Band, "Ireland in the Park".....
July 2	.....Paul 'Shilts' Weimar and Friends, "All Grown Up Jazz".....
July 9	.....Rear View Mirror, "Rockin' Through the Ages".....
July 16	.....Seven Bridges Road Band, "Hits of Then & Now".....
July 23	.....Something Special Big Band, "Swing Into Summer".....
July 30	.....Ricky Pen, "Mediterranean Summer Night".....
August 6	.....Plaza Theatrics, "My Way Sinatra Tribute".....
August 13	.....Ramp Family Caribbean Band, "Jammin' Caribbean Style".....
August 20	.....JC Diva Revue, "Broadway to Hollywood".....
August 27	.....Dr. Pamela Levy, "Say Goodbye to Summer with Opera Classics".....

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.

**\*In the event of inclement weather, the Great Neck Senior Center (80 Grace Avenue) will be utilized as an indoor concert hall. To find out if a concert has been moved, contact Village Hall on the day of the concert, or call our voicemail after 4:45 P.M., at (516) 482 - 4500, to know . We will have a recorded message if the day's scheduled concert has been moved away from Firefighters' 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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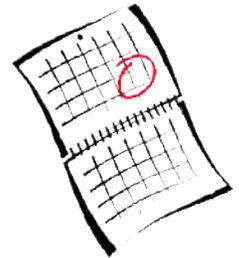
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[www.greatneckplaza.org](http://www.greatneckplaza.org)

### **Dates to Remember:**

- June 12: First Summer Concert of the 2013 Summer Concert Series; Great Neck Arts Center Presents, "Your Big Break Finale," 8 p.m., Firefighters' Park (Jon's Park)
- June 13 - 16: Sidewalk Sale; for more details, please visit [www.shopgreatneck.com](http://www.shopgreatneck.com)
- June 18: 2013 Summer Concert Series; Mamba Loco, "Summer's Sizzling Salsa Beat," 8 p.m., Firefighters' Park
- June 25: 2013 Summer Concert Series; The McLean Avenue Band, "Ireland in the Park," 8 p.m., Firefighters' Park
- June 27: Bond Street Promenade Night; Bond Street, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.



**SAVE THE DATE:** September 29 - 29th Annual Autofest/Street Festival, Noon to 5 p.m. (**Rain Date:** October 6)

## The Plaza Welcomes New Merchants

The Village is happy to welcome new businesses that are coming, have opened or have recently expanded their business within 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:

- **Premier Payments** - 40 Cutter Mill Road, Suite 302, (516) 282-3135
- **Leah's Bistro** - 105 Middle Neck Road, (516) 482-4528
- **Bareburger** - 32 Middle Neck Road, (516) 441-5711
- **Great Neck Family Foot Care (New Expansion)** - 7 Bond Street, (516) 482-5999
- **Thomas Cole Hair Salon (New Location)** - 8 Bond Street, Suite 100, (516) 829-2898



**A recent ribbon cutting welcoming Premier Payments to the Plaza**

