

Plaza Voice
Village of Great Neck Plaza
March 2014



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

VGNP Awarded Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) Grant by New York State



TEP project area - Welwyn Road & Shoreward Drive

efforts to strengthen the local and regional economies.”

Presently, the existing concrete walkways are deteriorating and this area lacks aesthetic treatments and streetscape amenities for the traveling public that exists in our other downtown areas. In the project area, the TEP grant will provide new brick walkways, the village’s standard in the commercial district, and will also reconfigure the roadways of Welwyn Road and Shoreward Drive to provide pedestrian and vehicular safety

The Village of Great Neck Plaza Mayor and Board of Trustees are pleased to have been recently informed by Governor Andrew Cuomo and Commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), Joan McDonald, that the Village has been selected for Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) funds for the Welwyn Road/Shoreward Drive Pedestrian and Bicyclist Enhancements Project in the amount of \$838,000 in federal monies, one of only four municipalities on Long Island to receive this funding.

The federal Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) funding offers innovative opportunities for the Village of Great Neck Plaza to expand transportation choices beyond traditional roadway reconstruction programs by making an investment in such things as promoting bicycling as an alternative mode, streetscape improvements, historic enhancements, landscape beautification, and in the process increase accessibility, safety and non-motorized transportation opportunities. Stated Mayor Celender, “We are thrilled with this announcement and want to thank Governor Cuomo and the New York State Department of Transportation for this terrific opportunity to continue our comprehensive traffic calming program, now more than a decade in the making, with the addition of a sixth major improvement project to address this important area of the Village. We are delighted that this TEP program includes safety enhancements and beautification improvements, such as reconstruction of the roadways, new brick sidewalks, new LED street lights, benches and street trees, which will contribute to the Plaza’s Main Street revitalization efforts. This TEP grant will greatly assist our local

features to enhance crossings, such as a raised landscaped medians and shoulder area curb extensions, similar to other locations throughout the Village. The project location also includes a federal National Register landmark, the U.S. Post Office at 1 Welwyn Road, which is the main Great Neck federal postal facility. It is also designated as a local historic landmark under the Village’s historic preservation law. The proposed enhancements of aesthetic brick walkways, historic street lighting and benches would look to complement this historic building and conform to its federal significance as both a national and local historic resource. As a result, greater visual experiences and improved accessibility and safety for the many pedestrians who visit the area, to do their shopping and errands, are expected.

The proposed TEP improvements were generated from numerous comments expressed at Board of Trustees meetings, telephone calls to Village Hall, local newspaper articles, and correspondence sent to the Village from residents and retail store owners. The project limits are completely within the jurisdiction of the Village of Great Neck Plaza and local residents and business owners are in support of the concepts presented in the application. The total TEP program cost is estimated at \$1,084,000, of which \$838,000 (80%) is covered by federal grant monies for construction costs. The remaining balance covered by the Village will go towards local surveying, preliminary and final design, and construction supervision and inspection services. With the recent award announcement by NYSDOT, the Village is hopeful that a master agreement will be obtained quickly with the state. The Village will then initiate design services and anticipates a TEP concept plan to be selected through public

Inside the Voice:

• Message from the Mayor	2
• VGNP Receives Favorable Rating in Comptroller’s New Fiscal Stress Monitoring System	3
• Mayor Celender Presents Complete Streets Workshop at Nassau County Traffic Safety Board Meeting	4
• Poetry in the Plaza - Awards Reading Day, Sunday, April 27th	
• Friendly Parking Tips	5
• January 2014 VGNP Star Performers	6
• Next Star Performer Announcement	
• S.T.O.P. - Stop Throwing Out Pollutants - Dates	7
• Call for Artists in 2014	
• Dates to Remember	8
• Plaza Welcomes New Stores	

meetings and community outreach by early summer of 2014. The next step would be preparation of contract documents by August 2014, followed by the bidding and awarding of the project contract by December 2014. The construction and construction mgt./inspection services are expected to be completed by August 2015. The Village has been granted five years by NYSDOT to complete construction.



Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

If you're like me, you are anxiously awaiting mid-March and the warmer weather coming in spring. This winter has been one of the coldest and snowiest on record and, needless to state, challenging times for our DPW. We are proud of their tireless efforts and working round-the-clock many days; as all employees have pitched in to help assist in dealing with snow related issues and dangerous concerns. Our goal is to keep the village roads and sidewalks safe, clear and accessible during and after snow storms and other winter weather events.

While we are hopefully nearing the end of this winter season, the snow removal activities that we follow bear repeating. Firstly, before a storm, we ready our equipment and spread salt and sand to minimize icing and increase traction. Secondly, as it snows and there's accumulation, we start plowing and continue clearing snow in multiple rounds on our village streets until the storm event ceases. For days later, we continue to plow and "cut" areas along streets and sidewalks, and in our parking lots, to clear snow out and make parking to the curb as accessible as possible. For the first 24 hours we generally suspend alternate side of the street regulations after the cessation of a significant snow storm with accumulation of at least 4 inches of snow as published by the National Weather Service.

However, once these suspensions are lifted, we utilize the alternate side of the street sweeping schedule to enable us to restore critical parking areas. We implore residents that park on-street to be mindful that you do need to move your vehicle, and if it gets snowed-in, to shovel it out as quickly as possible after a storm. If you are unable to physically do it yourself, you need to enlist a friend, neighbor, superintendent or hire a service to do this chore. To avoid having to shovel out your car, the Village also allows overnight parking in our municipal parking garages (located on Maple Drive and Gussack Plaza) when there is a significant snow storm to get parked vehicles off the street to facilitate snow plowing. Please be advised that these parking spaces are ONLY for Great Neck Plaza vehicles with a valid resident street parking sticker or quarterly permit holders. Vehicles are not permitted to park in garage spaces designated for village officials, police or the handicapped. Vehicles having only a resident street parking permit must remove their vehicles from the parking garages by 8:00 a.m. following the snow event to avail spaces for garage permit holders. The following day of a storm, contact Village Hall at (516) 482-4500, to check whether parking is being enforced,

or waived, due to a storm event. All of these snow storm guidelines are listed on the homepage at www.greatneckplaza.net or in the FAQs section of our website. We also have a recorded message on our answering machine, each night, so call Village hall at (516) 482-4500 for information and if there's any updates.

In addition, please note that property owners are responsible for the snow removal from adjoining sidewalks. When removing snow from your property or vehicle, please do not shovel snow into the roadway as this inhibits the Village's efforts to clear the roadway for safe travel. Also, our local fire departments remind us to 1) clear snow from around fire hydrants, and 2) do not park in front of hydrant clear zones as it inhibits access to a hydrant in the event there's a fire. Fire hydrants are an extremely important part of firefighting. They must be located so that they are easily identified and easily accessible to firefighters. It is illegal to park blocking a hydrant and can result in a costly parking fine. When every second counts, having clear access to fire hydrants is essential for our volunteer firefighters responding to a fire.

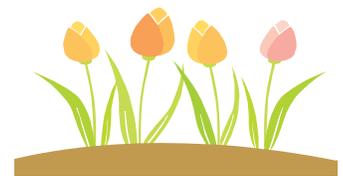
Soon we will actively getting ready to do our annual spring cleaning and planting of beautiful flowers, shrubs and trees during these upcoming spring and summer months. We will also need to be doing road repairs, as this winter wreaked havoc in creating many potholes in streets throughout the village.

We will be moving forward shortly in the preliminary design of a major reconstruction and beautification project for Welwyn Road and Shoreward Drive, our sixth traffic safety enhancement and improvement grant in my administration. We have been fortunate to have been the recipient of this many state grants, a model for implementing traffic calming grants, and making the Plaza a more walkable, pedestrian-friendly village.

We welcome the sight of beautiful, colorful blossoms that are a lovely part of spring time.

Happy spring!

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. 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



Village of Great Neck Plaza Receives Favorable Rating in Comptroller's New Fiscal Stress Monitoring System

New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli in January 2013 finalized plans to implement a statewide fiscal monitoring system to identify local governments experiencing fiscal stress. The goal of the system is to inform both municipal leaders and taxpayers of the economic and budgetary challenges facing their locality so that actions can be taken when appropriate to avoid a fiscal crisis. The fiscal monitoring system uses data that were already submitted by local governments to the Comptroller's Office to calculate the fiscal stress score. Our Village Clerk-Treasurer, Patricia O'Byrne, reported to the Mayor and Board of Trustees that the Village, as of December 31, 2013, is currently classified as "No Designation" with a score of 6.7%.

To put our score in perspective, 87 of 700 school districts and 40 of over 1,000 municipalities statewide are facing some level of fiscal stress. The system's financial indicators are based on nine different calculations in the following five categories: Year End Fund Balance, Operating Deficits, Cash Position, Use of Short-term Debt and Fixed Costs.



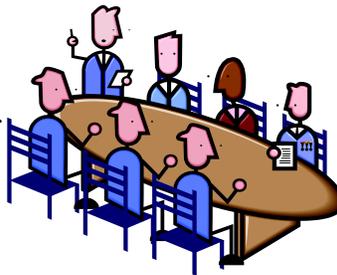
Each calculation is linked to a point-based scoring system and drives an overall financial indicator score with the potential for a total of 29 points. The score is then assigned a level of fiscal stress as follows:

- Significant Fiscal Stress (Entity received more than or equal to 65% of the total possible points)
- Moderate Fiscal Stress (Entity received more than or equal to 55% of total possible points)
- Susceptible to Fiscal Stress (Entity received more than or equal to 45% of total possible points)

A score under 45% is a designation of "No Designation," which is Great Neck Plaza's score. While Comptroller DiNapoli cautions that a municipality's absence from the top three fiscal stress categories should not be viewed as substantiation of good financial condition by his office, it nevertheless indicates that under this new fiscal stress system, the Village is not experiencing fiscal stress conditions and can be separated apart from those municipalities that warrant one of the warning levels developed in this scoring system.

Plaza Forming Citizens Advisory Committee

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is currently forming a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to assist Mayor Celender and the Board of Trustees in the development of policies and projects for its involvement in AARP's Livable Communities Program. We are looking for a diverse cross-section of residents, approximately 8 to 12 volunteers, who would serve, by appointment of the mayor, on the CAC that are interested in assisting the village in its primary goals of: 1) promoting safe, secure and more workable environments, and 2) allowing older residents to enjoy physical independence and enhance their mobility. The CAC members will offer advice, comments and recommendations for projects to improve the physical transportation infrastructure of the Plaza. The CAC will conduct walking tours of the village



and host meetings to formulate its program and recommendations for potential projects. Great Neck Plaza has in the past decade been pro-active in implementing close to \$4 million in traffic calming improvements, which have had beneficial effects on slowing traffic, reducing accidents and improving overall safety. Please join and help us move forward on this on-going work to accommodate the continued maturing and aging of the village's population and making the Plaza a walkable, pedestrian-friendly community. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please call Brian Hetey, Mayor's Assistant, at (516) 482-4500 or email him at mayorsassistant@greatneckplaza.net. Please include your contact information and a brief statement on why you want to serve.

Mayor Celender Presents Complete Streets Program Workshop at Nassau County Traffic Safety Board Meeting

Mayor Jean Celender was honored to be a presenter at the December 12th meeting of the Nassau County Traffic Safety Board. She spoke about her village's adoption of a Complete Streets Policy in 2012, what Complete Streets look like in Great Neck Plaza, and provided examples of traffic safety improvements her administration has completed that utilize Complete Streets principles. For several years, Celender has been an active participant at the Traffic Safety Board meetings. The Nassau County Traffic Safety Board, a division within the Nassau County Department of Public Works, has regular meetings comprised of representatives from villages, NC Police Department and local municipal police, District Attorney's Office, Probation Department, Department of Chemical Dependency, etc.



Mayor Celender (left) and Chairman Chris Mistrion (right) of the Nassau County Traffic Safety Board at the December 2013 meeting in Garden City.

public awareness on the proper use and size of child safety seats, graduated licenses and teen driving, Nassau County's Alex's Law, DWI statistics, and Nassau's Red Light Camera program.

The Nassau County Traffic Safety Board operates a Car Seat Safety Center at 170 Cantiague Rock Road in Hicksville, three days per week, with inspections being conducted by appointment. The Traffic Safety Board partners with the Education & Assistance Corp. (EAC) to provide bilingual and other services for low-income and non-English speaking families. One day at the Car Seat Safety Center is specifically dedicated to serving low-income families.

According to several studies, as many as 90 percent of child car seats are installed improperly. Improved installation can reduce the threat of injury or death by as much as 65 percent. The Hicksville location is equipped to provide the car-seat service year-round. Appointments for free car seat installation checks can be made by calling (516) 571-9664.

The Traffic Safety Board's mission, under Chairman Christopher M. Mistrion, is to educate the public about issues of traffic safety. This includes advocacy and

Poetry in the Plaza - Awards Reading Day, Sunday, April 27th



In celebration of Poetry Month, April 2014, the Village of Great Neck Plaza, in association with Long Island Traditions and Poetry Coordinator, Carolyn Raphael, will be hosting our Fourth Annual Awards Reading Day!

The Awards Reading Day readings will be held Sun., April 27th, at 2 p.m., at the Great Neck Plaza Village Hall. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

With dozens of poetry submissions from poets all across Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, the Awards Reading Day is sure to be a wonderful event celebrating the art of poetry. So in honor of Poetry Month, come down to Village Hall and be prepared to listen to some of the most beautiful poetry our contestants have to offer. You won't be sorry! For further information, contact Carolyn Raphael at gnpppoetry@yahoo.com.



Parker's Guide to Friendly Commuter Parking in Great Neck Plaza

Great Neck Park District Commuter Parking Fields

The Great Neck Park District owns and manages three commuter parking fields for Park District residents. Great Neck Plaza residents are a participating village in the Park District. There is a daily fee. Parking decals or stickers, issued at the Great Neck House, are required. The Park District lots are located in Great Neck Plaza at Canterbury Road, North Station Plaza and Shoreward Drive. Dunkin' Donuts, at 35 North Station Plaza, across from the train station, sells the Park District parking tickets for parking in the Park District's three commuter lots.

Parking Window Decals and Rules

We advise our residents that want to utilize parking spaces in these lots in the evenings and weekends that they are required to get a Park District parking sticker. The Park District enforces in these lots and in order to avoid a ticket, a vehicle must display a valid window decal *at all times* in order to park in any of the District's three commuter parking lots. The Park District wants to ensure that only Park District residents will be using these parking lots.

The Park District issues one parking window decal per resident household at no cost. If needed, a second permit may be purchased for \$12. In order to obtain a parking window decal, a resident must have a valid park card and present his/her vehicle's DMV registration, showing his/her name and Park District address.

In order to park in the lots Monday through Friday, between the hours of 5 a.m. and 5 p.m., parking fees apply. You are still required to purchase and clearly display on your rearview mirror a daily (\$4), monthly (\$68) or annual (\$748) ticket. Park District residents can park in any of the Park District commuter parking lots free on Saturday and Sunday with only the parking window decal. As in the past, parking is never permitted between the hours of 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. Parking is always on a first-come, first-served basis.

The parking window decals for parking in the Park District lots can be obtained at the Great Neck House, 14 Arrandale Avenue. Call the Park District, at (516) 482-0355, for further information.

Friendly Parking in VGNP: Helpful Parking Hints to Make Your Shopping Experience in Great Neck Plaza More Pleasurable

- Park between the white lines.
- When possible, park in municipal lots where the meters give you more time; four hours versus two hours for on-street meters. Staying more than four hours, however, is feeding the meter so please take note of the maximum time limits.
- Check your registration and inspection expiration dates.
- Take advantage of year-round **FREE PARKING**; all day Saturdays and Sundays, and daily after 3 p.m. in our two structured municipal garages in the permit spaces at Plaza Centre and Maple Drive (Does **NOT** include street and open lot parking).
- Don't be shy - put an extra quarter in the meter to avoid an expired meter and the possibility of getting a parking ticket. All of our meters have been reprogrammed to be "friendly meters" giving parkers an extra 5 minutes of additional parking at the end of your paid period.
- Change for parking meters is available at most friendly Plaza merchants.
- Don't park at a broken meter, including those that say "Failed." There is a chance you may be ticketed. Please call Village Hall at (516) 482-4500 to a report a meter as broken so that we can get it checked out and fixed. Even after hours, a voicemail message can be left in the general mailbox; we monitor all messages. Please let us know the meter number, indicated on the meter head or base, to better identify the possible broken meter.
- Besides being illegal, for everyone's safety, please refrain from double parking.



Next Star Performer Awards June 19, 2014



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, June 19, 2014 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:

Name

Phone Number

Three More 'Stars' Named in VGNP Star Performer Ceremony



'Stars' Elizabeth Siropyán & Forouzan Pooladi

On a recent January morning, the Village of Great Neck Plaza honored three "Star Performers" for their outstanding service to the community, and for making the Plaza an even better place to live, shop, work and play. Many of the Star Performers honored are long-time employees, who have fostered strong relationships with patrons over time. The award ceremony is open to the public and refreshments are served.

Those who were honored as "Star Performers" on January 23rd were:

- **Elizabeth Siropyán**, CVS, located at 1 Gussack Plaza. Nominated by Barbara Leopold
- **Forouzan Pooladi**, Wellness Ambassador at Rite-Aid Pharmacy, located at 50 Great Neck Road. Nominated by Hattie Abbey.
- **Joseph Diaz**, Village of Great Neck Plaza Building Inspector. Nominated by Lisa Kearns.



'Star' Joseph Diaz

We would like to thank our Star Performers for going above and beyond to help the people of Great Neck. As always, if you know anyone who fits the mold of a Star Performer, fill out the nomination form above so we can properly recognize those individuals.

S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) Household Waste Disposal Dates

The S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) program offers residents of the Town of North Hempstead the opportunity to dispose of their household hazardous waste in an environmentally friendly manner. Many people do not realize that ordinary household products, such as aerosols and cleaners, can be corrosive, explosive, or toxic if mixed indiscriminately with regular household garbage. It is important to take an extra moment to check labels for warnings, and please take advantage of this year's S.T.O.P. dates to ensure safe disposal. The next S.T.O.P. collection disposal dates in our area are as follows:

- **April 5th** at Michael J. Tully Park (1801 Evergreen Ave., New Hyde Park, NY 11040), 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **May 4th** at North Hempstead Beach Park (175 West Shore Road, Port Washington, NY 11050), 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **June 7th** at Michael J. Tully Park, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For each S.T.O.P. day, drop off times are from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For safety reasons, **NO** materials will be accepted **PRIOR** to 9:30 a.m. or **AFTER** 3:00 p.m. Those who plan on participating in the drop are reminded that latex/water-based paint, once hardened/dried out (24-36 hours after the lid is removed) may be disposed of in your regular trash. However, oil based paints are considered hazardous and will be accepted at S.T.O.P. collection days.

Any questions regarding the collection days, feel free to call the S.T.O.P. hotline at **(516) 767 - 4600** or **311**.

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

Are you ready to cast your ballot on Tuesday, March 18th? Remember, every vote is a vote of confidence for the candidate you vote for. On Tues., March 18th 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:

- Mayor for two-year term
- Two Trustees for two-year terms

Residents that will be away, are homebound or ill, may request an absentee ballot for the March 18th election. You can still register to vote, up to March 7th, for the upcoming election. Voter Registration Forms are available on-line at Nassau County's Board of Elections website (<http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/BOE/index.html>) and copies are also available for pickup at Village Hall.

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



Village Artist of the Month, Arline Michaelson (second from left) joined by Trustee Gerry Schneiderman (center) and friends and family.

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 for the enjoyment of 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 2014.

If you wish to consider exhibiting with us, please contact the Mayor's Assistant, at (516) 482-4500, or email mayorsassistant@greatneckplaza.net, to set up an appointment to view your portfolio and our exhibit gallery in the court room. 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. We will assist you in the setting up an artist reception as well. Artists are responsible for providing the refreshments to serve at their reception.



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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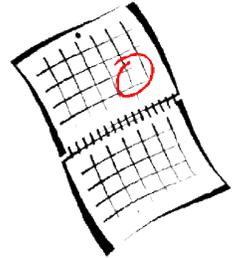
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We're on the web...

www.greatneckplaza.org

Dates to Remember:

- March 18 - Village Election at Village Hall. Polls are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- March 19 - Artist Reception, Hugo Alex Rivas, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall court room gallery
- March 31 - Poetry Contest Winners Announcement online at www.greatneckplaza.net
- April 27 - Awards Day Poetry Contest Readings open to the public at Village Hall at 2 p.m.
- June 19 - Star Performer Award Ceremony at Village Hall at 9:30 a.m.



The Plaza Welcomes New Merchants

The Village is happy to welcome new businesses that are coming or 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 and new businesses opening soon are:

- **Haus of Tova** - 73 Middle Neck Road, (516) 466 - 1855, Lifestyle boutique for women and men
- **Longevity Fitness** - 25 Cutter Mill Road
- **European Wax Center** - 14 Great Neck Road (Gardens Shopping Center)



A recent ribbon cutting event welcoming Bareburger, located at 32 Middle Neck Road, to the Plaza. Known for their savory, all-natural organic burgers, sandwiches, salads and shakes, Bareburger has been putting smiles on the faces of customers ever since they opened their first location in 2009 in Astoria, NY. Be sure to check out what everyone has been raving about!