



## Here Comes Winter!

While we've been enjoying unseasonable warm weather during the early part of December, Old Man Winter will undoubtedly be visiting us soon with cold weather and hopefully, fingers crossed, not too much snow. However, if last year was any indication, we may not be so fortunate with getting our wishes. In anticipation of the winter weather and storm conditions, the Village wants to remind you of several tips and things to remember with the storm season just over the horizon.

### Don't Worry About Digging Out Your Car; Alternative Parking Is Available!

To help avoid your car from getting snowed in and saving your back from heavy snow lifting, Plaza residents with a valid VGNP resident parking sticker can park in our two garages (Plaza Centre and Maple Drive) after 5 p.m., and when there is a snow storm of 4 inches or more, we generally suspend parking regulations in our garages for 24 hours after snowfall. Parking spaces in our two garages are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, and they do fill up quickly. When parking regulations are restored, vehicles must be removed by 9 a.m. the day regulations resume so spaces are available for permit holders, store owners and their employees. In order to know when regulations are suspended, please call Village Hall at (516) 482-4500. After business hours, a recorded message will notify callers of any announcements.

### Alternate Side Of The Street Parking Regulations Are In Effect Year Round

Please be advised that we utilize the alternate side of the street parking restrictions, normally for street sweeping, but in the winter to make it easier for Village Department of Public Works' (DPW) staff to plow snow and remove accumulated snow piles. When we have a block

without parked vehicles, it enables our snowplow operators to clean the area and restore parking for residents. We know the importance of on-street parking and how vital this parking is to serve our many apartment building dwellers. We request our residents' cooperation in adhering to the on-street parking regulations, promptly shoveling out their vehicles when snowed in, and moving them on days that alternate street parking rules are in effect.

**\*DON'T FORGET!\***



**When shoveling your sidewalk of snow or ice, don't forget to clean off any fire hydrant that may be on your property or in front your home, business or apartment building (for supers). Fire departments ask that people clear a distance of two feet in each direction, and do so within four hours after snowfall has ceased. Every second counts in a fire emergency!**

### Several Roads In The Plaza are County Roads

It is a common misconception that all roads located in Great Neck Plaza are Village roads. While almost all roads in the residential areas are Village roads and are plowed by the Plaza's DPW, **Cutter Mill Road, Grace Avenue, Great Neck Road, Middle Neck Road and South Middle Neck Road** are not within the Village's jurisdiction and are owned, maintained and plowed by Nassau County. The Plaza is precluded from doing any maintenance on a roadway under another municipality's jurisdiction. After storms, we do coordinate with Nassau County crews to assist us on clear cutting areas in order to regain on-street parking critical to our residents, shoppers and visitors.

### Shovel Your Sidewalks in a Timely Matter

The obligation to clean snow and ice from sidewalks is that of the adjacent property owner. Under Village code, owners or occupants of a property in the Village must clear and maintain a four-foot wide path on their sidewalks free of snow and ice. Furthermore, if your property is adjacent to a crosswalk, you are required to clear a four-foot wide path free of snow and ice from the sidewalk to the beginning of the crosswalk of the curb of the street. Clearing of snow and ice

## Inside the Voice:

• Message from the Mayor	2
• E-Newsletter Sign Up	
• Plaza Downtown Retail Outlook Looking Up	3
• VGNP Receives Community Development Block Grant Funds	4
• Did You Know? 4th Quarter Parking Permit Grace Period Ending January 10th	
• Great Neck Plaza on Display at 14th Annual Smart Growth Summit	5
• VGNP 6th Annual Poetry Contest Underway!	
• Veterans Day Celebrations, November 11, Atria Cutter Mill & Atria Great Neck	6
• Star Performer Awards Date Scheduled	7
• Call for Artists in 2016	
• Dates to Remember	8
• The Plaza Welcomes New Merchants	

must be done within four hours after snow has ceased to fall.

### **NEVER Shovel Snow Into The Street!**

Not only is shoveling snow into the street extremely dangerous, it is also illegal! When people throw snow piles into the street, it creates a hazardous condition for drivers and makes it harder for our DPW to effectively clear streets of snow. Cleared snow should be put curbside in the mow strip or inside the grassed areas of one's property. And as always, we ask that residents remove snow from their sidewalks in a timely and safe manner.

## Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

I extend warm greetings and best wishes for the Holiday Season and good health and prosperity to you and your family in 2016. At this time of year, it's appropriate to be grateful and give thanks for the many blessings that we enjoy here. I know that I appreciate many things, but first and foremost, the dedicated village staff and the many local shop owners who work so hard to serve the community and make Great Neck Plaza a great place to live, work, shop and play.

Our Dept. of Public Works crew is busy each season doing the beautification and readiness work for their ongoing activities. As soon as they completed cleanup of leaves and new tree plantings, they were out getting the Village outfitted and dressed up for the Holiday Season by placing out the hanging swag lights, LED rope lighting, snowflakes, wreaths, toy soldiers, nutcrackers and all of the holiday decorations that bring beautiful lights and a creative festive spirit in the downtown for this wonderful time of year! They've also equipped our trucks for the potential of winter snow storms, which we hope will not be as bad as the last two years have been by Mother Nature. Should you need information regarding our winter weather policies, feel free to call us at (516) 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.



Now that we are in the thick of the holiday season, we encourage everyone to shop small, and local, to support our many downtown retail stores, restaurants and service establishments. To make it easier for those shopping in the



Plaza, the Village is providing, in association with our BID, "Free Parking" in the Village's three open municipal parking lots to support our local merchants and shoppers on the four Saturdays before Christmas; which are November 28, December 5, 12 and 19. Of course, remember that 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, painting bar 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 Plaza Centre and Maple Drive municipal garages after 5 p.m. weekdays and all-day on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.

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

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 \* \_\_\_\_\_

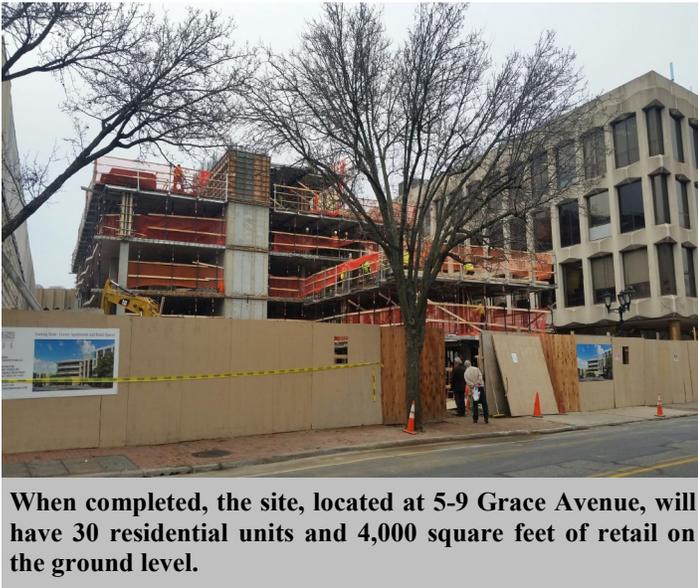
E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\* Indicates Optional Information



## Plaza Downtown Retail Outlook Looking Up

The Village is encouraged by recent leasing activities and new store openings in downtown Great Neck Plaza. These activities, coupled with legislative actions taken by the Village Board of Trustees and Mayor to encourage more transit-oriented development in the downtown, are aimed at assisting our commercial retail district. We currently have under construction a 30-unit mixed-use project on Grace Avenue that will have 4,000 square feet of retail on the ground level and three stories of rental apartments above, including three affordable workforce housing units. This project, expected to be completed by the end of 2016, will bring more residents into the downtown that will add vitality, and provide additional shoppers to frequent our stores, restaurants and service establishments.



**When completed, the site, located at 5-9 Grace Avenue, will have 30 residential units and 4,000 square feet of retail on the ground level.**

The Board of Trustees continues to review several applications at each Board meeting for conditional use permits and has approved 20 applications for new businesses in the past year. Metropolitan Commercial Bank, now opened at 111 Great Neck Road, recently had a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate its first Long Island branch banking center. Mark DeFazio, President and CEO, stated “Metropolitan Commercial Bank has been operating successfully for many years. We have a strong client base in this marketplace and Great Neck Plaza is a good location for us to continue to support local businesses. We provide working capital for a wide range of smaller businesses in just about any industry. We decided to locate here as a

natural progression to expand the company.” Great Neck Plaza welcomes Metropolitan Commercial Bank and wishes them much success in their new retail branch here in the Village.



**Mayor Jean Celender (center) and Trustee Pamela Marksheid (right) present Mark DeFazio, Metropolitan Commercial Bank President and CEO, a proclamation in commemoration of Metropolitan Commercial's Bank first Long Island location.**

Additionally, in the last two months, two businesses - Muse Paintbar (34 Middle Neck Road) and Village Asian Fusion (36 Middle Neck Road) - have celebrated their grand openings on Middle Neck Road at the former home of Bruce's Bakery and Hi-Tech Studios, respectively. Both businesses put in a tremendous amount of work in renovating and designing their spaces to maximize the customer experience for the Great Neck Plaza community. And so far, both businesses have been living up to their pledges to the community; providing quality services and much enjoyment. A quick glance at Muse Paintbar's social media pages shows many smiling faces standing next to their works of art, while Village Asian Fusion's entrées have been earning high praise from diners who have sampled their dishes.

Furthermore, numerous other businesses that have received conditional use permits to open businesses here in Great Neck Plaza are in the midst of renovations to open their establishments in the coming months. Be sure to turn to page 8 of this newsletter to learn which businesses have either been approved by the Village Board or celebrated a ribbon cutting, or sign up for our monthly e-newsletter to stay up to date on all the latest happenings in Great Neck Plaza.

## VGNP Awarded Community Development Block Grant Funds

Mayor Jean Celender and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Great Neck Plaza recently announced the Village has been awarded a \$200,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) by Nassau County Office of Housing and Community Development. The funds will be utilized to supplement the state Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) grant the Village received last year for a “green”

infrastructure project to redevelop and upgrade the Maple Drive open municipal parking lot. The County’s eligible items include roadway rehabilitation of Maple Drive, including curbs and resurfacing, street furniture, benches, trees, muni-meter solar parking stations and LED lighting in the parking lot.



**The Maple Drive parking lot will be upgraded with ‘green’ sustainable improvements in early 2016.**

“The Village is pleased that the County’s CDBG contribution will assist the Village in meeting its local match requirements on our existing EFC grant and enable us to make important infrastructure improvements to the Maple Drive parking lot, Maple Drive roadway and nearby benches and park facilities,” said Mayor Celender. “With this project, the Village can continue to make needed infrastructure

improvements while remaining within the state tax cap and providing more “green,” sustainable, and environmentally sound investments to benefit Village residents.”

For more information on Village of Great Neck Plaza related projects, please contact Brian Hetey, Mayor’s Assistant, via telephone, (516) 482-4500.

### Did You Know...?

...that the 2015 4th quarter parking permit grace period ends on January 10, 2016? After January 10th, vehicles with an expired quarterly permit will be enforced by Village Code Enforcement Officials. To avoid the risk of a ticket for an expired permit, please be sure to renew your parking permit at Village Hall prior to the conclusion of the grace period.

For those interested in purchasing a residential, commercial or commuter permit in the Village’s Plaza Centre or Maple garages for the 1st quarter parking period, please visit the Village’s Building Department between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. and 12

p.m. and 1 p.m. Anyone applying for a permit must bring in their current driver’s license and registration. Plaza residents whose driver license does not reflect a valid Plaza address must provide documented proof of residency (utility bills or bank statements) and/or a letter from the co-op or apartment board president stating that you live at the Plaza address claimed. Those people applying for a commercial (business owner or employee) parking permit must provide proof from their employer validating their employment. Currently, commercial and residential parking permits are \$90 per quarter.

For those applying for commuter parking permits, be aware these permits are limited and processed on a first-come, first-serve basis, and may be done so only in person at Village Hall. Once all commuter permits have been issued, people will be placed on a waiting list. The price for a commuter permit is now \$250 per quarter.

Permits can be purchased via check or money order, payable to ‘Village of Great Neck Plaza,’ or credit card. Cash payments will not be accepted. For more information, please call Village Hall at (516) 482-4500.

## Great Neck Plaza Featured at 14th Annual Smart Growth Summit

Mayor Jean Celender was honored to be a recent panelist and presenter at Vision Long Island's 14th Annual Smart Growth Summit held in Melville. It was a huge success with over 1,000 businesses, community and government leaders attending this year's event. The conference included over 20 workshops featuring 140 speakers focused on varying topics related to downtown revitalization and infrastructure investment.

Vision's Director Eric Alexander touched on some of the recent transit-oriented development projects throughout Long Island, with 40 communities having projects currently open or under construction and nearly 11,000 units approved over the last decade.

Mayor Celender's panel was a "State of the Towns and Villages" to present an update on projects in the Village of Great Neck Plaza. When asked to identify the



Mayor Jean Celender (left) with Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Judi Bosworth (center) and Vision LI Director Eric Alexander (right) at the 14th Annual Smart Growth Summit.

Village's biggest accomplishment, Mayor Celender stated that it was addressing infrastructure improvements while staying within the tax cap. Six traffic calming improvements have been implemented in the past 15 years to the tune of \$4.5 million in State grants awarded in order to incorporate walkability and to provide more accessibility and safer streets. The Mayor noted that the Village has one of the densest downtowns and the highest percentage of senior populations on Long Island. Mayor Celender has formed a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and is currently working with AARP to develop a livable action plan for Great Neck Plaza to become a Livable Age-friendly community to encourage increased walkability and improved quality of life for users of all ages and abilities. The Plaza was the first Village to join AARP's Livable Communities Program. Stay tuned for more information on our Action Plan!

## VGNP 6th Annual Poetry Contest Underway!

Poets 18 years of age and older living in Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and Brooklyn, are invited to submit up to three unpublished poems, along with an entry fee, non-refundable, of \$15. The entry fee is payable by check or money order to Long Island Traditions. The poems may be on any subject, in any style, must have a title, and must not exceed more than 30 lines per poem. We also ask that poets type their poems in a single-space format. Additionally, poets must include two copies of each poem, one anonymous and one with the poet's name and address below the poem. A cover sheet listing the poet's name, address, phone number and email address, and title of each poem, must be included as well when submitting an

entry. Poetry submissions must be postmarked by January 31, 2016.

Winners of the 6th Annual Poetry Contest will be announced on the Village's website on March 31, 2016. An Awards Day reading will take place on Sunday, April 17, 2016, at 2 p.m., at the Great Neck Plaza court room. The first prize winner will receive \$150 and a 20-minute reading at Awards Day, second prize winner will receive \$75 and a 10-minute reading, and the third prize winner will receive \$50 and a 5-minute reading. There will also be two awards for Honorable Mention; these poets will be invited to read their poems as well.

This year's judge will be George Held, a prolific poet and popular reader of his work. He is a retired Queens College English professor and was a Fullbright lecturer in Czechoslovakia. Author of poems, translations, stories, and book review, he has published in the *New York Quarterly*, *Commonweal*, *Confrontation*, *Review*, among others. He had poems included in over three dozen anthologies. His twentieth poetry collection, *Neighbors: The Water Critters*, was published by Filsinger & Co. in 2015.

For additional information regarding the Village's 6th Annual Poetry Contest, please feel free to contact Village Hall at (516) 482-4500.

## Veterans Day Celebrations, November 11, 2015 Atria Cutter Mill & Atria Great Neck



The Village Board of Trustees, along with Boy Scouts from Troop 10 of Great Neck and Girl Scouts from Troop 656, celebrated Veterans Day with veterans from the two Atria Senior Living facilities. Pictured above, veterans from Atria Cutter Mill, members of the boys scouts and girls scouts, and Village officials stand in front of Atria Cutter Mill's dedication to service wall.

For many years, the Village of Great Neck Plaza has had the privilege of celebrating Veterans Day and honoring the brave veterans and home front workers who reside at the two Atria Senior Living facilities in the Plaza - Atria Cutter Mill, located at 96 Cutter Mill Road, and Atria Great Neck, located at 51 Great Neck Road. This year was no different, as Village elected officials took part in an event that honored 29 individuals at Atria Cutter Mill and 27 individuals at Atria Great Neck. Joined by Girl Scouts from Troop 656 and Boy Scouts of Great Neck from Troop 10, the day's festivities included recognizing those who served, poetry readings and a dance and musical performance by the girl scouts. In honoring those who served our country on our home soil and overseas, Mayor Jean Celender stated, "The unwavering commitment of our servicemen and servicewomen - both home and abroad - who have preserved our freedoms and saved millions around the world from the threat of danger can never be understated. We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to those heroic men and women who served so valiantly."



On behalf of the entire Great Neck Plaza community, we are proud to recognize and honor the veterans of the Atria Senior Living facilities. They are as follows:

<u><i>Atria Cutter Mill</i></u>	<u><i>Atria Great Neck</i></u>
<i>MARTIN BERMAN</i>	<i>DAVID APPLEMAN</i>
<i>VINCENT BONOMO</i>	<i>MURRAY BERGER</i>
<i>LEO DANKER</i>	<i>CARL BERLIN</i>
<i>NATHAN DODELL</i>	<i>SAUL BIGEL</i>
<i>EVELYN FEINSILVER</i>	<i>HAROLD BLOOM</i>
<i>JOEL GERBER</i>	<i>JOSEPH CICILIATO</i>
<i>JULIUS JONAS</i>	<i>RAPLH DECRISTOFARO</i>
<i>WILLIAM KARP</i>	<i>MARTHA DETURRIS</i>
<i>FRED KRAUS</i>	<i>NORMAN DIAMOND</i>
<i>MAY LADMAN</i>	<i>MARVIN DOBLIN</i>
<i>LAWRENCE LEFKOWITZ</i>	<i>WALTER FINUCANE</i>
<i>INEZ LEWIN</i>	<i>DANIEL GOLDBERG</i>
<i>RALPH MANN</i>	<i>BEN GREENBLATT</i>
<i>JOHN MENDOLIA</i>	<i>EDWARD HABER</i>
<i>ANDREW MOSKOWITZ</i>	<i>JOSEPH HEIT</i>
<i>ALBERT MUNVEZ</i>	<i>CARL HOWARD</i>
<i>AARON POLSKY</i>	<i>SIDNEY LEDERMAN</i>
<i>MICHAEL ROTH</i>	<i>PETER MONTLLOR</i>
<i>CHESTER SACKETT</i>	<i>DOMINICK RICCA</i>
<i>LOUIS SARRO</i>	<i>ROBERT RUSTING</i>
<i>SEYMOUR SCHARF</i>	<i>ABNER SHEFFER</i>
<i>ROBERT SCHREINER</i>	<i>PHILLIP SIEGAL</i>
<i>SYLVIA SCHWARTZ</i>	<i>WILLIAM TANNER</i>
<i>EDITH SHAPIRO</i>	<i>WALTER TANZER</i>
<i>BERNARD SMITH</i>	<i>ROBERT TODD</i>
<i>JOSEPH STRASSFIELD</i>	<i>ANN WEISSMAN</i>
<i>SIDNEY TRENCHER</i>	<i>HELEN WOLFSON</i>
<i>CHARLES WELLINGTON</i>	



Veteran and Atria Cutter Mill Resident, Julius Jonas, points out his photo on the dedication to service wall.

## Next Star Performer Awards

### January 21, 2016



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 January 21, 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 in 2016.

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 artist reception held in November showcasing the wonderful artwork of Yafa Fruchter (center), and admired by Mayor Jean Celender (right center)

## 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)

PRSR STD

U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID

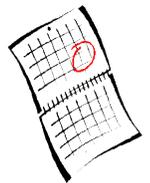
Flushing, NY

PERMIT NO. 1599

We're on the web...  
[www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net)

### Dates to Remember:

- January 1, 2016 - New Years Day. In observance of the holiday, Village Hall will be closed.
- January 10, 2016 - End of 4th quarter parking permit grace period. For more information, please see article on page 4.
- January 18, 2016 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. In observance of the holiday, Village Hall will be closed.
- January 21, 2016 - VGNP Star Performer Ceremony, Village Courtroom, 9:30 a.m.
- January 31, 2016 - Last day to submit poetry as part of the Sixth Annual Poetry Contest. For more information, please see article on page 5.



## 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 services 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 or help you celebrate your event. Just call the Mayor's Office at 482-4500. Some recent additions are:

- **Best Yet Market** - 40 Great Neck Road **\*\*Opening Soon\*\***
- **Great Neck Kafe** - 105 Middle Neck Road
- **Great Neck Kids Learning Group** - 25 Cutter Mill Road
- **Metropolitan Commercial Bank** - 111 Great Neck Road, (516) 441-5232 **\*\*Now Open\*\***
- **Mizu Asian Restaurant** - 68 Middle Neck Road, (516) 918-9535 **\*\*Now Open\*\***
- **Muse Paintbar** - 34 Middle Neck Road, (516) 252-0515 **\*\*Now Open\*\***
- **Village Asian Fusion** - 36 Middle Neck Road, (516) 482-1923 **\*\*Now Open\*\***
- **Watami Sushi** - 25 Cutter Mill Road, (516) 504-4462 **\*\*New Ownership\*\***



The Great Neck community officially welcomed Metropolitan Commercial Bank to the Plaza on December 9, 2015. Located at 111 Great Neck Road, the Great Neck Plaza location is Metropolitan Commercial Bank's first banking center outside of New York City.