



VGNP Awarded \$675,000 'Green' Grant for Maple Lot



The Village of Great Neck Plaza is pleased to have been recently awarded a \$675,000 grant from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) in their Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) for the reconstruction of the municipal parking lot on Maple Drive using porous pavement. This open surface parking lot contains 121 parking spaces. The Village is looking to retain as many of the existing parking spaces as possible in the redesign of this lot. A Feasibility Study that accompanied the grant application included three alternate concepts plans, two with 121 spaces and one with 119 spaces. The preferred plan, which will be refined as the Village moves forward in preliminary design phase under the grant, calls for maintaining all 121 spaces.

The Maple Drive parking lot is in need of repair and the Village wants to utilize this great opportunity afforded by an EFC grant to enable the Village to reconstruct it using green infrastructure techniques, such as an innovative porous pavement element. Porous pavement will collect/recharge rainwater on-site to the aquifers, thus improving water quality and providing for better stormwater runoff, as well as minimizing the potential for flooding. Stormwater experts and developers are considering porous pavement as a sustainable way to reduce stormwater runoff.

The Project promotes sustainability by improving existing infrastructure with green technologies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has identified "green" as the new color for stormwater programs. Adopting this initiative by the EPA, we are shifting to green to redevelop this lot with a porous pavement element, other green features, such as possibly a rain garden, LED lighting, solar metering stations, benches, and low-maintenance landscaping that will include the planting of native species and grasses. The landscaping will serve the purposes of providing more greenery, shade, beautification, reducing urban heat island effects, and complementing the hard surfaces. This lot serves shared parking needs in the downtown and, thus, the project will revitalize the downtown community and spur economic development. This project will contribute to the "greening" of Great Neck Plaza, a participating New York State Climate Smart Community, and will be a model for other communities across the state.

The Village is presently working with the EFC to complete the requisite contract agreement and supporting documents and anticipates a (approximate) project schedule of completing design in winter/spring 2015, bid letting in summer 2015 and construction in late summer/fall 2015.

Continued on Page 7

Inside the Voice:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Message from the Mayor E-Newsletter Sign Up 	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing but Gold; Great Neck Plaza Businesses Win Top Spot in Best of Long Island Competition 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 Years of Success and Smiles; VGNP Honors Yoshi Hirashima and Daruma of Tokyo 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All You Need is Love; Atria Cutter Mill Residents Pen Valentine's Day Letters to Members of the Armed Forces 	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Merchants Welcomed in the Plaza, by Trustee Lawrence Katz 	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VGNP Awarded \$675,000 'Green' Grant for Maple Lot (continued from Page 1) VGNP Rings in Chinese New Year Poetry in the Plaza; Awards Reading Day - April 19th Every Vote Counts. Don't Forget to Vote! 	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dates to Remember The Plaza Welcomes New Merchants 	8

VILLAGE ELECTION NOTICE

Mark your calendar to come out to vote in the Village Election on Wednesday, March 18th, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Two Trustees' positions and one Village Justice position will be up for election. The polling location: Great Neck Plaza Village Hall, 2 Gussack Plaza. Free parking will be reserved in the surface lot across from Village Hall in spots designated for voters.

For more information, please see article on page 6.

Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

As I write these greetings to you, I am reflecting on the unusually cold weather we have experienced this winter. Along with you, I am looking forward to the warmer weather coming and for signs of spring.

This winter has been the second coldest February on record and presented very difficult working conditions for our Department of Public Works and Code Enforcement Unit. We are proud of their diligent efforts in dealing in these harsh weather conditions and addressing the many public safety 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. When it snows or there are icy conditions, we get questions on maintenance responsibilities, so I'd like to remind you about the village's regulations in this regard.

As you may know, the property owner is responsible for maintaining the sidewalk in front of their premises in a safe condition, which means the timely removal of snow, and the application of salt and/or sand when necessary. When removing snow from your property or vehicle, please do not shovel it into the roadway as this is illegal and inhibits the Village's efforts to plow the roadway for safe travel. Also, our local volunteer fire departments remind us to: 1) clear snow, a minimum of 3 ft. from around fire hydrants, and 2) not to park in front of hydrant clear zones as it inhibits access to a hydrant in the event there's a fire. Parking in front of a hydrant is illegal and can result in a costly fine. When every second counts, having clear access to fire hydrants is essential for responding firefighters.

In other Village related news, we are just beginning the preliminary design phases on two major reconstruction and

beautification grants, our sixth and seventh infrastructure improvement grants, which totals over 4.5 million dollars in transportation-related grants in the last 15 years. The first one is for the Shoreward Drive and Welwyn Road area to install pedestrian and bicyclist safety improvements and streetscape enhancements near the Shop Delight supermarket and U.S Post Office. The second grant is the green innovation grant to reconstruct the Maple Drive parking lot with a "green" porous pavement element, new LED site lighting, and adding benches and low-maintenance vegetation.

We feel very fortunate to have been awarded these highly competitive and coveted state grants. Know that your village officials continue to lead the way in implementing traffic calming initiatives and making the Plaza a more walkable, pedestrian-friendly village. We are proud of these accomplishments and for being able to make significant infrastructure improvements without borrowing money and taking advantage of the opportunity each of these presents to significantly leverage the relatively minimal village contribution to these projects. Stay tuned as we will conduct public information meetings to present the preferred alternative for these grants after the survey work can be completed, which assists us and our engineering consultants in further refining each of the concept plans. We want to solicit your input and comments so that these projects reflect community desires, needs and concerns.

In the meantime, we are looking forward to the beginning of spring. 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



Nothing but Gold; Great Neck Plaza Businesses Win Top Spot in Best of L.I. Competition

So you're strolling around a downtown on Long Island and are wondering how the businesses you are walking by stack up against the competition locally and throughout the Island. There are various websites and apps that will be able to give you ratings and opinions on a certain establishment - Yelp and UrbanSpoon come to mind - but how do you know for sure which business is the 'best of the best,' the 'crème de la crème?' If you live or shop on Long Island, four words; Best of Long Island.

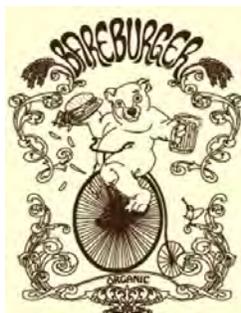
For ten years now, Long Island Press, the free monthly news journal serving Long Island, has been holding a voter competition to determine the best ranking businesses and organizations in specific categories. In past years, the competition has generally selected the first, second and third place winners in each category, with a handful of honorable mentions as well. This year, however, the ten year anniversary of the competition, there is room for only one spot on the podium; gold!

After a nomination period in which 50,717 businesses were nominated between January 1st and August 31, 2014, an astounding 2,050,950 votes casted between October 1st and December 15th of the top 15 to 18 nominees in each category, it is with great pleasure that the Village of Great Neck Plaza announces four Plaza businesses have been awarded the gold; the title of 'best of the best' in their respective category! Without further adieu, Great Neck Plaza's winners are as follows:

- **Bareburger** - located at 32 Middle Neck Road, Bareburger was voted home of the best veggie burger on Long Island! Known for the exotic meats that make up their

menu - ostrich, wild boar, lamb, and elk, just to name a few - it is their 'Barest Burger' that has Long Islanders

raving. Order it with a farmers quinoa veggie patty, a black bean patty or portabella mushroom base, the 'Barest Burger' will leave you considering a vegetarian lifestyle. For more information about Bareburger, give them a call, (516) 441-5711, or visit their website, 32-middle-neck-road.bareburger.com.



- **Cheryl Russell, L.M.T.** - located at 1 Barstow Road, Suite P-16, Ms. Russell was named by Long Islanders as the home of the best massage on Long Island! An expert in Medical Massage Therapy and Cold Laser Therapy, Ms. Russell has garnered high praise for her methods that almost seems to cure your worst soft tissue injuries or acute and chronic pain. One visit to Ms. Russell will make you realize you don't have to live with pain. This is the second year in a row that Best of Long Island has named her the absolute best in this field. For more information on Cheryl Russell's practice, please give them a call, (516) 773-0020, or visit their website, www.coldlaserrelief.com.
- **Laverne of Great Neck**- located at 9 Cutter Mill Road, *Best of Long Island* has named Laverne of



Great Neck the best fusion restaurant. Since there opening in 2011, Laverne of Great Neck has been earning raves for their innovate fusion of Japanese and French dishes, along with their Thai cuisine. One of the hottest spots in Great Neck Plaza, this is the third year in a row Long Islanders have voted the restaurant the best! For more information on Laverne of Great Neck, please give them a call, (516) 829-8200, or visit their website, www.laverneofgreatneck.com.



- **Tennis Junction** - Located at 43 Middle Neck Road, Tennis Junction was named by Long Islanders as the best tennis store on Long Island! As *Best of LI* stated, 'in order to play the part, you've got to look the part,' and with the help of Tennis Junction, you will! Whether you're looking for the trendiest tennis gear or the latest tennis racket to hit the market, Tennis Junction has you covered. For more information on Tennis Junction, please call (516) 487-1515.

The Village is extremely proud of these four businesses for bringing the gold to Great Neck Plaza. With such high quality establishments in your own backyard, be sure to visit these award-winning businesses, as well as our other fine shops and restaurants, to see what many Long Islanders are buzzing about.

30 Years of Success & Smiles; VGNP Honors Yoshi Hirashima & Daruma of Tokyo

Whether you're a long time resident of Great Neck Plaza or someone who frequently visits the Village, chances are you or someone you know has experienced the 'Daruma Experience.'

What is the 'Daruma Experience,' you ask? This occurrence we speak of is the feeling that Great Neckers have been getting for the last three decades each time they have walked into Daruma of Tokyo; greeted with a welcoming that longtime friends can only exchange, before having your pallet taken on a journey of some of the finest and freshest cuisines on the Island. In today's world of conversations via social media and text messaging, Daruma of Tokyo is a throwback, where staff know their customers and take the time to get know everyone who stops in. To some, this may seem odd, but to Yoshi Hirashima, celebrating his 30th year as owner of Daruma, this is second nature; just one of the perks of being a restaurant owner.

In honor of Mr. Hirashima and Daruma of Tokyo's 30th year anniversary in the Plaza, the Village of Great Neck Plaza executive board honored Mr. Hirashima for his three decades of outstanding service and contributions to the Great Neck Plaza community. During his 30 years overseeing operations at Daruma, Mr. Hirashima has been an active member in various organizations and has participated in

numerous Plaza events, including the Village's annual Restaurant Week, summer promenade nights, as well as being a consistent sponsor of the Village's annual summer concert series.

Notwithstanding Mr. Hirashima's contributions to the community, it is Mr. Hirashima's ability to connect with his customers that have made him one of the most esteemed and loved members of the Plaza community. In a proclamation presented to Mr. Hirashima at the February 4th Board of Trustees Meeting, Mayor Celender spoke about Mr. Hirashima's impact on the community, "More than anything else, more than being

a successful business owner, you are a dear and beloved friend to your customers and neighboring business owners alike," adding that Daruma of Tokyo's success was "a testament to your vivacious and joyful personality, your ability to turn anyone's day for the better with your trademark smile."

On behalf of the Village of Great Neck Plaza community, we applaud

Yoshi Hirashima and the entire staff at Daruma of Tokyo on this tremendous milestone, and wish them nothing but continued happiness and success in the years to come.



Yoshi Hirashima, center, poses with Trustee Lawrence Katz, Mayor Jean Celender, Trustees Pamela Marksheid and Gerry Schneiderman during the February 4th Board of Trustees meeting. The Village Board presented Mr. Hirashima and Daruma of Tokyo with a proclamation celebrating its 30th year anniversary in Great Neck Plaza.



Daruma of Tokyo, located at 95 Middle Neck Road.



All You Need is Love; Atria Cutter Mill Residents Pen Valentine’s Day Cards to Members of the Armed Forces



With the help of Meagan Devine, Atria Cutter Mill Engage Life Director, far left, and Mayor Celender, far right, Atria Cutter Mill residents fill out Valentine’s Day cards that were sent to veterans and active members of the military.

as that is the number of cards residents at Atria Cutter Mill wrote to the brave men and women who make up the fraternity of the armed services.

Ask anyone who participated in the card writing event and they will tell you that the love was definitely being felt on that afternoon. Sylvia Schwartz, a Atria Cutter Mill resident who participated in the event, wrote in her card, “I am writing you this note on Valentine’s Day to thank you and let you know how much you are supported for your brave service to the country. Please take care and know I am thinking of you and your fellow soldiers.” While other residents wrote their own personal notes, the sentiment was the same; we support you, we are thinking of you, and on this Valentine’s Day, know that you are loved by many back at home.

February 14th; everyone knows what that days represents and means. Each year, couples, whether they’ve been married for many decades or just started dating, use Valentine’s Day as a day to spend with their significant other, give back to their partner and express just how much that person means to them. For some on Valentine’s Day, the hardest thing they have to deal with is being able to lockdown a coveted reservation at the trendiest restaurant.

As Mahatma Gandhi famously said, “where there is love, there is life.” On February 14, 2015, Atria Cutter Mill was filled with both.

However, for those serving our country home and abroad, Valentine’s Day sometimes means having to face the prospect of being away from their loved ones, usually in the midst of long tours away from home. Having to spend time away from your loved one is hard enough as is. Having to do it for extended amount of time thousands of miles away from home and many time zones apart is an entirely different situation.



Just a few of the cards on display that Atria Cutter Mill residents wrote during the day’s festivities.

Well this Valentine’s Day, the residents of Atria Cutter Mill, in conjunction with the Plaza and A Million Thanks, an organization that connects everyday folk and active members and veterans of the military through a letter campaign, among other things, wanted to do something about it to raise the spirits of those in uniform and let them know that the love for them back home is one that can make the heart grow three times in size. Started in 2004, A Million Thanks has sent a whopping 6,789,478 letters to those who serve and have served our country. That number increased by at least 50 this Valentine’s Day,

New Merchants Welcomed in the Plaza

by Trustee Lawrence Katz

In every issue of the *Plaza Voice* we welcome new merchants. Over the past year we've welcomed dozens of new retail shops to our downtown.

We encourage everyone to shop locally and to patronize our local merchants. Why? It's important to support local business in the Village if we want to maintain our downtown and our quality of life. New merchants bring the services we need, add convenience and options to our daily lives. This is especially important for young families and the elderly, permitting shopping in our walkable downtown.

While it's important to shop at all of our downtown businesses, it's especially critical for the survival of a new business in its first couple of years. Starting a new business is challenging and we should give them all the support we can.

Here is a list of new businesses:

- **Arts & Antiques, Inc.** - 41 Great Neck Road, (516) 439-5308
- **ASHA Threading Style Salon** - 37 Middle Neck Road, (516) 487-2742
- **Bagel & Deli Café** - 33 North Station Plaza, (516) 466-7070
- **Bare Bonez Fitness** - 25 Cutter Mill Road, (516) 321-9020
- **Bareburger** - 32 Middle Neck Road, (516) 441-5711
- **Burger Village** - 66 Middle Neck Road, (516) 321-9177
- **Caffe Bene** - 1 South Middle Neck Road, (516) 487-4193
- **Cheeburger Cheeburger** - 46 Middle Neck Road, (516) 829-2433
- **Cooper Shoes** - 8 South Station Plaza, (516) 487-3600
- **European Wax Center** - 14 Great Neck Road, (516) 482-5300
- **Great Neck Krav Maga** - 45 Cutter Mill Road, (917) 862-4383



Caffe Bene, located at 1 South Middle Neck Road, celebrated their grand opening this past November. The Great Neck Plaza location is the franchise's first location on Long Island.

- **Great Neck News & Convenience** - 29 Middle Neck Road, (917) 686-7679
- **Golden Sun Spa** - 11 South Middle Neck Road, (516) 466-6361

- **Haus of Tova** - 73 Middle Neck Road, (516) 466-1855

- **Krung Tep Thai Bistro** - 23 South Middle Neck Road, (516) 498-9889

- **Lamed Vav** - 20 South Station Plaza, (516) 482-3652

- **Longevity Fitness** - 25 Cutter Mill Road, (516) 829-1260

- **Pinpoint Fitness** - 14 South Station Plaza, (516) 829-5900

- **Planet Fitness** - 38 Great Neck Road, (516) 918-9600

- **Sake 68 Japanese Fusion** - 68 Middle Neck Road, (516) 918-9777

- **Senor Nacho** - 31 South Middle Neck Road, (516) 466-0011

- **Serene Nail & Spa** - 9 South Middle Neck Road, (516) 708-9888

- **SUS Gallery** - 42 Middle Neck Road, (516) 672-9437

- **Toddlewood Studios** - 27 Middle Neck Road, (646) 596-4227

In addition to the above, several businesses have recently relocated and expanded within the Village are as follows;

- **Starbucks** - 6 Great Neck Road, (516) 487-4944
- **Nardo Shoes** - 63 Middle Neck Road, (516) 466-0487

Furthermore, we are expecting additional business openings over the coming weeks and months, including:

- **Dolly's Beauty Salon** - 28 Middle Neck Road
- **LaunchPad Great Neck** - 3 Grace Avenue
- **Muse Paint Bar** - 34 Middle Neck Road
- **N.Y. Tea Island** - 4A South Station Plaza
- **Rimon** - 16 Middle Neck Road
- **Village Asia Fusion** - 36 Middle Neck Road

Be sure to stop by all of these fine businesses who have just recently moved into the Plaza, as well as those local landmarks that have called the Great Neck Plaza community home for many, many years.

Poetry in the Plaza; Awards Reading Day - April 19th

In celebration of Poetry Month, April 2015, the Village of Great Neck Plaza, in association with Long Island Traditions and Poetry Coordinator, Carolyn Raphael, will be hosting our Fifth Annual Awards Reading Day! **The Awards Reading Day readings will be held Sunday, April 19th, 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 over 50 poetry submissions from poets all across Brooklyn, 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!

VGNP Rings in Chinese New Year



Welcome to the year of the goat, Great Neck Plaza! The Village recently had the pleasure of welcoming in the new year with Elaine Ho (center), owner of Elaine's Asian Bistro, located at 8 Bond Street. As part of the festivities, Trustees Lawrence Katz (left) and Gerry Schneiderman (right) presented Ms. Ho and her staff with a proclamation welcoming in the new year and honoring the restaurant for its impact on the community.

VGNP Awarded \$675,000 'Green' Grant for Maple Lot

Continued from Page 1

The Village is also partnering with the William A. Shine Great Neck South High School and John Motchkavitz, Department Head of Business/Technology, to provide a community-based applied learning experience for its engineering and architecture students about sustainable parking lot rehabilitation. In conjunction with the educational and community outreach components, the Village will be developing and installing interpretative signage in the lot to identify the green, sustainable features and interpretive themes on the historic North Shore Gold Coast area.

Stated Mayor Celender, "We would like to thank Governor Cuomo, the EFC, our state representatives, Senator Jack Martins and Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, the Plaza's Business Improvement District (BID), Great Neck Chamber of Commerce, and other stakeholders in the community who supported this application and our investment in infrastructure to maintain a strong, vibrant business environment, job growth, education and enhanced quality of life. This project will not only benefit Great Neck, but will serve as a model "green" sustainable design for all Long Island communities."

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

Are you ready to cast your ballot on March 18th? On Wednesday, 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:

- Two Trustees for two-year terms
- One Village Justice for a four-year term

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 until March 6th - for the upcoming election, and can submit your absentee ballot anytime before the polling place closes on the day of the 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 at Village Hall.

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

PRSR STD

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

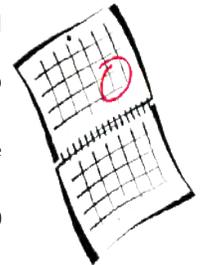
Flushing, NY

PERMIT NO. 1599

We're on the web...
www.greatneckplaza.net

Dates to Remember:

- March 5 - VGNP Star Performer Ceremony, Village Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- March 9 - Social Media & Marketing Boot Camp, presented by Maria Frey, President and Founder of Executive Consultants of New York, Village Hall, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Plaza retailers and small business owners looking to increase traffic and sales are invited to attend this seminar. For more information, please call Village Hall at (516) 482-4500.
- March 18 - Village Election at Village Hall. Polls are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, please see page 7.
- March 23 - Nassau County Cutter Mill Road Traffic Study Public Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30 p.m. Hosted by Nassau County Legislator Ellen Birnbaum.
- March 31 - 5th Annual Poetry Contest Winners Announcement, www.greatneckplaza.net.
- April 19 - 5th Annual Poetry Contest Awards Reading Day, Village Hall, 2 p.m.



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:

- **Dolly's Beauty Salon**, 28 Middle Neck Road
- **Golden Sun Spa**, 11 South Middle Neck Road, (516) 466-6361
- **LaunchPad Great Neck**, 3 Grace Avenue
- **N.Y. Tea Island**, 4A South Station Plaza
- **Rimon**, 16 Middle Neck Road
- **Village Asian Fusion**, 36 Middle Neck Road



Having only been opened since this past December, Krung Tep Thai Bistro, located at 23 South Middle Neck Road, has already become one of the hottest restaurants, not just in Great Neck Plaza, but all across Long Island. To know what the buzz is all about, be sure to stop by the restaurant or visit their website, www.krungtepthaibistro.com, to view their menu.