

Plaza Voice
Village of Great Neck Plaza
September 2015



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
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**31st Annual AutoFest and Street Fair
 Scheduled for October 4th!**

Inside the Voice:

**Celebrate Great Neck Plaza's 31st Annual AutoFest
 & Fundraiser for Wounded Warrior Project**



Sunday, October 4, 2015 • Noon - 5 PM
(Raindate: Sunday, October 11, 2015)

**A staple event of the Great Neck Peninsula, the 31st edition of the
 Annual AutoFest and Street Fair will take place on Sunday, October 4th!**

Whereas some folks are uneasy of admitting they are north of 30, the Village of Great Neck Plaza, in conjunction with our Business Improvement District (BID), would like to extend an invitation to the 31st celebration of our Annual AutoFest and Street Fair! And as a way to once again give back to those who have been injured or suffered illness serving our country, we will be raising money for the Wounded Warrior Project. The fair is scheduled to take place on **Sunday, October 4th, from Noon to 5 p.m.** In the case of inclement weather, the event will take place the following Sunday, October 11th.

Those who have participated in past festivities will see much of the same features that have made the street fair a must attend event for the last three decades; top-quality live musical entertainment - performances by The Meade Brothers, Gathering Time, and Banjo Rascals, - daylong dance performances from Great Neck Plaza's own, Katya School of Dance, tasty food from our fine restaurants, fun activities for the kids - street artists and games, inflatable bouncers and slides, and even a petting zoo.

And of course, it wouldn't be an autofest in Great Neck Plaza if we didn't mention the amazing collection of classic and antique cars that will be on hand dotting Middle Neck Road, the 25th anniversary of the car show being featured as part of the annual street fair. In addition to all the historical and exotic cars scheduled to be on hand, the featured car of the autofest will be a pristine 1934 Rolls Royce Park Ward. Only 40 manufactured worldwide, the

featured Park Ward is the only model known to be registered in the United States.

As mentioned earlier in the article, the 31st Annual Autofest and Street Fair will also serve as a fundraiser for the Wounded Warrior Project, the third year of be raising money for the organization. Formed in 2003, the Wounded Warrior Project is a national organization that serves veterans and service members who incurred a physical or mental injury, illness or wound during the course of their military service on or after September 11, 2001.

To maximize the street fair experience for festival-goers, streets in the downtown business area will be closed to vehicular traffic. Middle Neck Road, from Great Neck Road to Maple Drive, as well as portions of Bond Street, Grace Avenue and North Station Plaza, will be closed during the event.

Make sure you save the date, Sunday, October 4th, as we will be celebrating one of our favorite events, the 31st Annual AutoFest and Street Fair! We hope that you will join us for this fantastic day festivities, and we look forward to celebrating another wonderful street fair with you!

For more information on the Annual AutoFest and Street Fair, including how you can participate in the event, please feel free to contact Village Hall, (516) 482-4500, or the Great Neck Plaza Business Improvement District via phone, (516) 829-1301, or their website, www.shopgreatneck.com.

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Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

The summer is coming to an end but this year marks one of the nicest weather-wise with many sunny days and beautiful summer evenings that allowed us to have an active outdoor season. We hosted in association with our BID, six successful Promenade Nights that were well-attended and entertaining. Our Promenades are terrific community happenings bringing families and friends together to dine and have fun in the downtown. It's an easy, relaxing way to have dinner al fresco with kids in tow and Fido, too! Besides great dining, there's a live band and other activities to make these events a special block party. Patrons continue to request more Promenade Nights, and we'll have to review and work with our BID to see how more can be planned for next summer.



Great Neckers came out in tremendous numbers for this year's 2015 Promenade Night Series. Above, people enjoy a night out dining on Bond Street.

We also had another fantastic line-up of performers in our 2015 Summer Concert Series. It was one of our best seasons yet! We look to provide a variety of music genres and weekly concerts of some of Long Island's best performers around, and, of course, hosting bands that fit within our program budget. We greatly appreciate the support of the Great Neck Park District and the Great Neck Senior Center for their cooperation and assistance in this popular program. Additionally, we are very grateful to the following local merchants and individuals who have so generously sponsored us this year to help defray program expenses: Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Daruma of Tokyo, Emanuel Entertainment Services/David Emanuel, Jewels by Viggi, Nemat Development, Richland Management, Aura Salon & Style Lounge, Douglas

Elliman, Grace Plaza Rehab and Health Care Center, Great Neck Diner and Jildor Shoes. Please tell them how happy you are for their help in bringing these wonderful live concerts to you every Tuesday night!

We are in the Hurricane season and the month of September, National Preparedness Month, can be an active month of the season. Once an overlooked period by Long Islanders, after the 2012 Superstorm Sandy, persons here can now understand and respect the possible damage that can potentially be inflicted by such powerful natural storms. We remind residents to be ready in advance with a "Go Kit" and take a few minutes to make preparations for you and your family for a possible hurricane that might strike this area. PSEG Long Island advises you to connect with them as a customer by registering your cell phones and following them on social media pages. Check for updates and preparing for a storm at: www.psegliny.com/page.cfm/CustomService/StormCenter/StormSafetyPrepared.

Our 31th Annual AutoFest and Street Fair is scheduled for Sunday, October 4th. Always a great fun-filled family day, we are busy planning with our BID



some new additions to make this an exciting fall festival. We hope you will join us to celebrate a great day in downtown Great Neck Plaza. The Street Fair will take place on Middle Neck Road from South Station Plaza to Maple Drive, starting at Noon and running until 5 p.m. The rain date is the following Sunday, October 11th.

I look forward to seeing you – so come on by and have a great time in the Plaza's downtown at the Street Fair on October 4th!

Jean A. Celender, Mayor



Village's Newest Summer Flowers in Full Bloom

There's no question in the mind of Great Neckers that summertime is the best time of year. From the many events that take place throughout the summer months – promenade nights, summer concerts, sidewalk sales, restaurant week – or just walking down Middle Neck Road with the leafy green canopies from the trees above providing a nice breeze, the warm and welcoming atmosphere is one that makes folks wonder why Old Man Winter has to ruin everything come the end of the year. In addition to these wonderful events, Plaza residents and visitors alike also know that come summertime, vibrant and decorative flowers adorning street planters and hanging pots will be dotting the Village's downtown business area and train station. And while these flowers make their debut during the summer months, the decision as to what flowers will be planted is one that is strategically made between Village officials and the Village's plant nursery suppliers and Santelli & Sons, months in advance.

The Village places an emphasis on the continued beautification of the community. Inspired by the work of past Plaza Mayors, and lessons learned from visiting cities around the world known for their intricate floral designs, the Village Board decided to make unique floral combinations in our planters a main part of the beautification program. Mayor Celender tasked Trustee Gerry Schneiderman with choosing flowers that would not only beautifully decorate the Village's numerous planters, but wouldn't require a lot of maintenance. After previously containing Alberta Spruces, Trustee Schneiderman knew he wanted to go with a species of plant that would add color and zest to the Village's streetscape. After conferring with several nurseries and viewing many options, Trustee Schneiderman, wanting to support a local business, chose Santelli and Sons, the family-run Great Neck nursery with decades of experience



Val Santelli (left) and Trustee Gerry Schneiderman (right) reviewing one of the new planters located at the LIRR train station.

in the field, as the Village's nursery. Together with Ryan Santelli, Trustee Schneiderman settled on a colorful combination of Begonia, Potato Vine and Scaevola for the Village's planters.

Fast forward to 2015, after years of using the combination of Begonia, Potato Vine and Scaevola, Trustee Schneiderman decided it was time to add variety to the Village's stock of planters. Once more, Santelli & Sons came up with ideas for a new design to add to the Village's already colorful inventory of flowers. Working with Vic & Val Santelli, the Village decided on two new planter designs; Elephant Ears and pink Vincas for one set of planters, and Cat Palm, with pink Angelonias, in another set of planters. So far, the new designs, which can found throughout the Village, are earning praise. Rorie Wach Miller, owner of the Great Neck Diner, which has two planters

containing Elephant Ears and Vincas in front of the diner, has said the new planters are very attractive. "The new planters are unique and beautiful, and definitely contribute to the summery atmosphere by dazzling Grace Avenue & Bond Street with a pop of color and pizzazz," stated Ms. Miller.

The Village has also heard favorite comments from numerous residents and merchants regarding the new planters. However, the Village wants to hear from you as to what you think of our newest additions. Do you like the new planter combinations? Do you think the Village should continue to modify the designs with new plant species throughout the Village? Please call Village Hall, (516) 482-4500, or email the Village, info@greatneckplaza.net, and let us know your thoughts and comments on the Village's planters.

New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul Visits Great Neck Plaza

Albany meets Great Neck Plaza! Recently, the Village of Great Neck Plaza was privileged to meet with the state's Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Kathy Hochul, at Village Hall. Lt. Gov. Hochul, who has been crisscrossing the state since she was sworn in as Lt. Governor on Jan. 1, 2015, met with Mayor Jean Celender to discuss a range of issues and learn about some of the projects that the Village is undertaking in the near future. Lt. Gov. Hochul said she enjoys visiting local governments and downtown businesses since it reminds her of her own hometown of Hamburg, New York, located in Western New York, where her mother was a small business owner in a close-knit community. When told of



During a recent tour of Long Island, Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul stopped by the Great Neck Peninsula and visited the Village of Great Neck Plaza. Pictured above, Mayor Jean Celender gives Lt. Gov. Hochul an overview of the Chamber's new map of the Peninsula.

the scope of grant projects the Village has recently received funding for, Lt. Gov. Hochul said she was very impressed by the amount of work that the Plaza has been able to do using funding from the state and commended the Village's Board of Trustees and Mayor for finding new ways to improve the quality of life for residents. Although she was on a tight schedule with numerous events around Long Island she would be attending, Lt. Gov. Hochul said she looked forward to returning to the Plaza soon to see more of the Village and

work on various economic development and downtown initiatives with the community.

Special Thanks to the Plaza's Summer Interns



Alexander Rein

Local government requires the work of many to run efficiently. This year, for the third consecutive summer, Village staff had the pleasure of being assisted by two great interns - Alexander Rein and Sarah Greiff - on many important Village related matters. Mr. Rein, entering his senior year of high school, assisted the Village in the organizing of annual 'Salute to New Merchants' event, archiving older editions of our quarterly newsletter, *The Voice*, and played a substantial role in assisting the Mayor in putting together the Village's draft Climate Action Plan, amongst other things. As part of her summer internship, Ms. Greiff, entering her sophomore year of college, wrote press releases and

articles for the Plaza's monthly e-newsletter, helped update and maintain the Village's photographic inventory of all of the Plaza's stores, as well as documenting Village street signs.



Sarah Greiff

Throughout their time interning at Village Hall, both Mr. Rein and Ms. Greiff were a tremendous help assisting Village staff, always being very attentive and prompt in finishing their tasks in a timely matter. The Village has been very fortunate to have these two interns dedicate much of their summers to give back to their community. On behalf of the entire Great Neck Plaza community, we thank both Alexander and Sarah for all their hard work and service.

Shout Out to Our 2015 Summer Concert Series Sponsors

Among the many great events that take place throughout the year in the Plaza, it would be hard to find one that brings as much dancing, singing, and overall joy as much as our annual summer concert series. For more than two decades, the summer concert series has been a staple of the Great Neck community, kicking off the start of summer with numerous evening concerts that last right up until Labor Day. And like many of the concert series cycles before it, the 2015 Summer Concert Series saw another great slate of concerts, as well as many familiar faces who were dancing and clapping along to the music with concert-goers who were experiencing the series for the first time.

The 2015 Summer Concert Series created so many great memories that we will always remember; our first Asian-American Cultural Night, Mambo Loco not letting inclement weather dampen the atmosphere, The Liverpool Shuffle bringing out over 300 Beatlemaniacs, Nikki Blonsky belting out the hits of *Hairspray* during opera night, and the group of 40 or so concert-goers who were dancing together in front of the stage to the music of the always entertaining Ricky Pen during Mediterranean Night, just to name a few. The concert series concert-goers came out in large numbers each and every week regardless of how warm it was or the how high the percentage of rain was, and for that, we couldn't say thank you enough to those who joined us every Tuesday.

Additionally, we couldn't organize these great shows without the help of our outstanding sponsors who help defray the costs of bringing quality entertainment to Firefighters' Park. This year's sponsors consisted of many



RICHLAND MANAGEMENT CO., INC.



Great Neck Social Center

The Village's annual summer concert series has always enjoyed the support from top-notch sponsors. The 2015 Summer Concert Series proved to be no different. Above are just a few of the summer's supporters.

familiar faces from the Great Neck Plaza community, including sponsors who have been longstanding supporters of our concert series and other programs for many years. The Village would like to gratefully acknowledge and thank the following sponsors for their generous support:

- **Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel** (45 North Station Plaza)
- **Aura Salon & Style Lounge** (25 Cutter Mill Road)
- **Daruma of Tokyo** (95 Middle Neck Road)
- **Douglas Elliman** (11 Bond Street)
- **Emanuel Entertainment Services/ David Emanuel**
- **Grace Plaza Rehab and Health Care Center** (15 St. Paul's Place)
- **Great Neck Diner** (14 Grace Avenue)
- **Jewels by Viggi** (65 Middle Neck Road)
- **Jildor Shoes** (42 Middle Neck Road)
- **Nemat Development** (559 Middle Neck Road)
- **Richland Management** (10 Welwyn Road)

Additionally, we would like to thank the Great Neck Park District for allowing the Village to use beautiful Firefighters' Park as our summer concert series outdoor venue, as well as their park staff for their assistance each Tuesday night. Similarly, we thank the Great Neck Social Center for graciously permitting us to use the center as our indoor venue in the case of inclement weather.

Once again, we would like to thank all the parties involved, performers, concert-goers, and sponsors, for making the 2015 Summer Concert Series one of the best concert series in our history. We couldn't have done it without you!

'Courtesy is Contagious,' VGNP Citizens Advisory Committee Update

The Village of Great Neck Plaza's Citizens Advisory Committee is up to new and exciting things in its partnership with the AARP's Livable Community program. The CAC is looking forward to improving the local community by making it more "age-friendly" and promoting a healthy, walkable community for persons of all ages and abilities.

The CAC enforces the goals of the AARP's Livable Community program to promote a safe and secure environment for older residents to comfortably advance their physical independence and mobility. This group of volunteers is in frequent contact to discuss solutions and to share their ideas for the future with the Plaza's Mayor, Jean Celender, who spearheaded the formation of this CAC. The Village is proud of being proactive and joining in the AARP's mission; the first incorporated village in the U.S. to do so.

In addition to focusing on these main objectives, the citizens Advisory Committee's current goal is to start a chain of compassion toward others. Sheldon Goodman, the

ombudsman of the Plaza's CAC, says, "Our polite and civilized behavior—respectful, thoughtful, kind, inclusive and our generous treatment of others—is not only powerful but also contagious, yielding untold rewards and benefits. Moreover, when we treat our fellow residents with civility,

they are more likely to pay this behavior forward to others, creating a community that is a more enriching and pleasant place to live in."

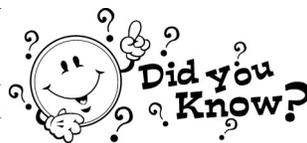


The CAC is establishing an ongoing dialogue via a regular column in the local newspapers to keep the community updated with their activities to help make the Plaza an even more respectful, considerate, and compassionate environment that would enable community members to live and work together.

To help the CAC achieve their goal for a more cohesive and encouraging neighborhood, the members are asking interested residents to email Sheldon Goodman at s4mind@aol.com with their ideas on what they would like to see the CAC work on to improve the quality of life in the Village of Great Neck Plaza.

No Cash or Check, No Problem; Village to Accept Credit Card Payments for Parking Permits

Just in time for the start of the fourth quarter parking permit schedule - renewals begin Friday, September 18th - the Village is pleased to announce that it will now start accepting credit cards as a form of payment for street and garage parking permits. For years, the Village's policy was that people could only purchase permits if they had exact change, check, or a money order. We've heard from residents, merchants and commuters, alike, and one of the main suggestions we heard was making credit card payments an acceptable form of payment for permits. Like we did when we heard from the respective parties that they would utilize evening hours if the Village offered it, we instituted four evenings in which our Building Department stayed open late to process permits. When we heard from commuters that the process of issuing commuter permits took too long and conflicted with their train schedule, the



Village opened its doors at 7:30 a.m., and put in a place a system in which commuters could drop off their applications and have their permit mailed to them at a later date, limiting a process that often took a few hours to complete, to just under 30 minutes. We've heard you once again, so this parking quarter, don't fret if you left your cash or check at home; credit cards will be accepted!

Please note, for those using credit cards, there will be a service fee of 2.99%, and only Visa and MasterCard will be accepted. Additionally, credit card purchases must be done in-person and the cardholder must be present during the purchase. For more information regarding our credit card policy, or any questions regarding the fourth quarter parking schedule, please call Village Hall at (516) 482-4500.

Sixth Annual Poetry Contest Rules Announced!

Poetry lovers, rejoice! The rules and dates for submission for the Village's 6th Annual Poetry Contest are finally here! Starting immediately, residents 18 years of age and above from Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and Brooklyn are invited to submit up to the three unpublished poems, along with an entry fee, non-refundable, of \$15. The entry fee can be 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 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.



be invited to read their poems as well. Additionally, each of the three winning poems will be posted for one month on seven secure outdoor village sign posts, on the bulletin board in Village Hall, and in the waiting room of the Great Neck LIRR station. Honorable Mention poems will be posted for two weeks at the aforementioned locations.

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 Fulbright lecturer in Czechoslovakia. Author of poems, translations, stories, and book reviews, he has published in the *New York Quarterly*, *Commonweal*, *Confrontation*, and *The Notre Dame Review*, among others. He has had poems included in over three dozen anthologies. His twentieth poetry collection, *Neighbors: The Water Critters*, was published by Filsinger & Co. in 2015.

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 place winner will receive \$50 and a 5-minute reading. There will also be two awards for Honorable Mention; these poets will

For additional information regarding the Village's 6th Annual Poetry Contest, please feel free to contact Village Hall, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., at (516) 482-4500.



Yafa Fruchter to Exhibit Artwork in VGNP Court Room Gallery

The Village is pleased to announce that Long Island native and Brooklyn-based artist, Yafa Fruchter, will be exhibiting her artwork in the Village's court room gallery through the end of October 2015. An artist reception will be held on Wednesday, October 21st, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Members of the public are invited to come and meet the artist, as well as view her work.



A multidisciplinary artist, Ms. Fruchter creates pieces in many artistic styles.

Ms. Fruchter is a multidisciplinary artist who has studied and created pieces in a myriad of artistic styles; paper mache, wire-mesh sculpture, acrylic and water color painting, and mandala, in addition to jewelry making. Born in Israel, Ms. Fruchter's passion for art started during her childhood

when she was fortunate enough to work some of Israel's top artists. After years of traveling around the world to further her art education, Ms. Fruchter moved to New York in 1982 and soon after began teaching art. Currently, Ms. Fruchter teaches paper mache and mandala painting at her studio in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, located at 184 Eagle Street.

If you or someone you know is an artist who is interested in exhibiting your artwork in our courtroom gallery, please contact Village Hall via telephone, (516) 482-4500, or email, info@greatneckplaza.net, to set up an appointment to view your portfolio and our gallery.

VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

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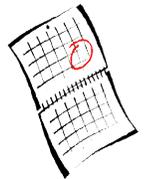
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We're on the web...

www.greatneckplaza.org

Dates to Remember:

- **Sunday, October 4** - 31st Annual AutoFest and Street Fair, Noon to 5 p.m. (**Rain Date:** Sunday, October 11)
- **Monday, October 12** - Columbus Day. ****Please Note, Village Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.****
- **Sunday, October 18** - Great Neck Plaza 5K Fun Walk/Run, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- **Wednesday, October 21** - Yafa Fruchter Artist Reception, Village Hall, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Members of the public are invited to attend.



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:

- **Bonda Yoga** - 14 South Station Plaza (New Location in Pinpoint Fitness)
- **Kasumi Sushi** - 25 Cutter Mill Road (516) 231-4481
- **Metropolitan Commercial Bank** - 111 Great Neck Road
- **Royal Tea House** - 1 Great Neck Road
- **Saaho Village** - 69 Middle Neck Road



Muse Paintbar, located at 34 Middle Neck Road, is just weeks away from opening their new Great Neck location.