

# Plaza Voice

Village of Great Neck Plaza  
June 2008



Mayor Jean A. Celender, Deputy Mayor Ted M. Rosen, Trustees  
Gerry Schneiderman, Rafe Lieber & Pamela Marksheid

Clerk-Treasurer Patricia O'Byrne, Editors: Carol Teplin & Bev Safian

## Great Neck Road Project Off to a Great Start!

On a sunny, cloudless spring morning, a groundbreaking ceremony for the reconstruction of Great Neck Road was held at the Atria Senior Assisted Living Facility at 51 Great Neck Road. Mayor Jean Celender has anxiously awaited this historic groundbreaking, as this is the second of four traffic calming grants obtained by the Village under a municipal assistance program known as "Local Safe Streets and Traffic Calming Project" by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT).

"Our residents, the seniors of the Atria, were a major guiding light throughout this process," stated Mayor Jean Celender, who credits Atria resident, Ann Falk, as the cheer leader of the team here. Mrs. Falk was instrumental in spearheading a grassroots campaign to urge the Village to obtain such a grant and to improve this roadway for the benefit of her fellow senior citizen neighbors with difficulties crossing Great Neck Road. Mayor Celender expressed her thanks to Atria Exec. Director, Marcy Klein, and her staff for their generosity in offering the use of their facilities for the ceremony.

Mayor Celender then gave a brief history of Great Neck Road and this traffic calming project. Great Neck Road is a Nassau County Road that runs a little less than one mile from Middle Neck Road to Bayview Avenue, which is two-thirds in the Village of Great Neck Plaza, and one-third in the Town of North Hempstead, further down on the western end around Cutter Mill Park.

Great Neck Road was built in the 1920's at a time when this area was just developing, before we even had an incorporated village, as the automobile was coming of age with the rapid development of automobile technology and its mass production. Back then, roadways were designed to accommodate the needs of the motoring public, providing wide travel lanes with the goal of increased mobility; getting people in vehicles to places efficiently and faster. Remarked Celender, "As we have grown as a community and Great Neck Plaza's concentration of residents largely in apartment buildings, we've become a more compact and walkable village. Pedestrians are walking to the train station, to shops and parks and they have the need and want enhanced access for them to safely cross our roadways."

This project's goal is to redevelop Great Neck Road in a comprehensive fashion. The project will resurface the road, accommodate safer pedestrian crossings, slow down traffic and improve its aesthetic look and appeal as a gateway to the Great Neck community. This reconstruction project for Great Neck Road provides for the resurfacing of the roadway's pavement, rebuilding the center median and reducing the number of openings to manage left turns, installing crosswalks with curb extensions and pedestrian refuses, and improving pedestrian signals and signal timing. With these improvements, Great Neck Road will function more safely for all users, particularly elderly and younger pedestrians needing to cross the street. In order to provide these amenities and to further reduce conflicts, the roadway will be narrowed from its current 4 lanes to 2 travel lanes west of the Gardens Shopping Center, without adverse impact to travel times.

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## Plaza Restaurant Week June 1-8, 2008 Dinners \$20.08!

From June 1 through June 8, the Great Neck Plaza Business Improvement District will be holding the first annual Restaurant Week in the Village of Great Neck Plaza. Twenty of our very finest restaurants will be participating, offering Prix Fixe Dinners for \$20.08! These fine establishments invite you to join them for dinner during Restaurant Week: Daruma of Tokyo, Elaine's Asian Bistro, Hinata, Wild Ginger, Bruce's Restaurant, Fredrick's, La Rotunda Café, Simply Fondue, Café Classico, Café Kriza, Giraffe Room (Inn at G.N.), Ethos Greek Cuisine, Colbeh, Natalie's Place, Gino's Restaurant, La Gioconda, La Rotunda, Tulip, Pancho's Border Grill and Turquoise.

A special attraction during Restaurant Week will be the transformation of Bond Street into a pedestrian promenade on the evening of Thursday, June 5, from 6:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M. (Rain date of Saturday, June 7). Patrons will be invited to sit under the stars, dine

alfresco and enjoy the menus from Bond Street's well-known eateries; Hinata, Elaine's, La Rotunda and Fredrick's. There will also be musical performances from Phil Costa's Something Special Band, a 15-piece orchestra, and Keith and the Bond Street Gemstones, a 6-piece jazz band, led by Keith Fishenfeld, owner of Bond Street's own Keith's Jewelry.

Great Neck Plaza is a dining destination that is both diverse and vibrant. "We have a variety of cultural restaurants offering Asian, Mexican, Greek, Continental, Italian, American and Mediterranean style foods," said Mayor Jean Celender. "These restaurants offer excellent food, are inviting and warm, allowing for a family night out or for an intimate meal."

The friendly atmosphere of Great Neck Plaza is the perfect setting to enjoy the best in North Shore dining. All 20 participating Restaurant

Week restaurants are within walking distance of convenient parking available on-street or in municipal parking fields and garages.

Restaurant week dinner menus can be found on the BID's website at [www.greatnckshop.com](http://www.greatnckshop.com). Come enjoy fine food, live music on Thursday night as we transform Bond Street into a block party, and a week of great dining to showcase our fine restaurants.



## Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

Spring has finally sprung and there is much to report on current activities in the Plaza. We are underway with reconstruction work on Great Neck Road, which has been a much anticipated safety and enhancement project for the Village. I am delighted that all the detailed studies, planning, engineering work and public outreach has finally brought us to this stage of construction being commenced. We have great confidence in our contractor, Intercounty Paving Associates, who anticipates that they will be able to complete construction on or ahead of schedule, but certainly finish the contract before the end of the summer.

So during this period of construction to bring you an enhanced roadway, we ask for your patience as you may encounter a lane closure during the off-peak periods. Please obey construction signs, posted speeds and flagmen who will advise

motorists. Residents are advised to take alternate routes during this period, if possible, to avoid any delays and to help construction proceed in an orderly fashion. The quicker the contractor can complete their work, the shorter the period of any inconveniences to the motoring public, as well as to minimize effects to surrounding properties.

Summer is always my favorite season as I look forward to our Summer Concert Series. Carol Teplin, my assistant and concert organizer, has again endeavored to find great artists and performers to add to the enjoyment of this live music program in the park. Can you say "dancing music?" But of course, we like to offer something for everyone, including the mayor, who will be ready with her dancin' feet.

So I wish you all a relaxing, fun-filled summer. I hope to see you under the stars for a moonlit dance or conga line in

Jon's Park. Come join me for some entertaining music, in a lovely park setting, where we can take time to enjoy and unwind in these lazy days of summer.

We hope you will frequent our fine restaurants during the upcoming "Restaurant Week," scheduled for June 1 to June 8th. We are also planning to launch a Thursday night block party on June 5th (rain date of Saturday, June 7th) on Bond Street, closing it off for pedestrian traffic only, making it a promenade, with live music and dining alfresco at the Bond Street restaurants. This stands to be an exciting and festive week. Do come out and try a restaurant and see their value-priced and creative menus!



Jean Celender, Mayor

## Annual Water Report of the Water Authority for 2007

The Water Authority of Great Neck North (WAGNN) recently published their "Annual Drinking Water Quality Report" for the year ending December 2007. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services the Authority has delivered over the past year.

Mayor Celender, a Director on the Water Authority's Board of Directors, wants to ensure residents that the mission of the WAGNN is to provide the highest quality of drinking water to its customers. Superintendent Robert Graziano is available to address any concerns that Great Neck Plaza residents may have regarding the quality of their drinking water. The Authority continues to supply safe, clean, quality drinking water in compliance with all applicable health standards. Copies of the Annual Water Quality Report are available by calling the Water Authority offices at (516) 487-7973, ext. 12. Further information is also available on-line at [www.waterauthorityofgreatnecknorth.com](http://www.waterauthorityofgreatnecknorth.com). Residents are advised to help keep our underground water supply clean by following these important tips:

- If you have a dog, please use a "pooper-scooper," and properly bag and dispose of animal waste.
- Sweep (don't hose) driveways and other paved surfaces around the home. This can significantly reduce the amount of pollutants present in runoff.
- Maintain vehicles to avoid any leaking fluids such as oil, gasoline, anti-freeze, and other liquid chemicals. These chemicals can pollute storm-water runoff and find their way into surface waters.
- Store pesticides and fertilizer indoors, where they will not come into contact with rain and pollute stormwater.
- Consider "organic" lawn care and use slow-release nitrogen fertilizers.
- If you must use lawn chemicals and fertilizers, use them sparingly. Dispose of unused chemicals and their containers as hazardous waste at a household hazardous waste collection in the town's S.T.O.P. Program (see page 4).



**Protect & Help  
Ensure the Quality  
of our Drinking  
Water**

## VGNP Wellness and Fitness Committee Report

In today's society, people are doing damage to their bodies daily. Our country spends approximately 95% of our health care dollars, over one trillion dollars a year, on diagnosing and treating many diseases. However, statistics show that half of all deaths in the United States can be prevented; some of these are attributed to stress, obesity, low fitness levels, and poor nutrition.

The Village of Great Neck Plaza has decided to "step up" and do something proactive about these health issues and risks. The Fitness and Wellness Committee is urging everyone to get up and "Start Walking." The committee is organizing a "walk" to the Montauk Lighthouse. It will take 108 miles, or 216,000 pedometer steps, to get there. The goal is to start small by walking 1,000 steps a day and then being able to increase one's activity level to walk 10,000 steps per day. It is a lot easier than you think!

There will be a kickoff walk of 2,000 steps (1 mile) at Jonathan Ielpi Firefighter's Memorial Park (Jon's Park) on Grace Avenue in the Plaza on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 12 Noon. There we will collect a registration fee of \$5 for the pedometer and to be eligible for the prizes. We are asking that each participant log their activity on a weekly basis and report it to the village in one of several ways; by fax to 482-3503, through e-mail at [VGNPstep@gmail.com](mailto:VGNPstep@gmail.com), or by visiting Village Hall. Come join our walk! The committee is looking for additional volunteers to help us plan future events.

The committee is pictured here (from Left to Right): Chair, Michael DeLuccia, Dr. Adam Glassman and Janice Wolin.



## Plaza to Launch Historic Preservation Website

By Nancy Solomon, Historic Preservation Consultant

The Village of Great Neck Plaza, a participating community in the state Certified Local Government (CLG) program, is pleased to announce that it will soon launch its Historic Preservation Commission website, as part of the village's website at [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net). The website, funded by a CLG grant, aims to attract and energize local residents who want to know about their local history, and to participate in its landmarks program. This is part of a statewide effort supporting the creation of Commission websites so that local residents and researchers can learn more about their communities' preservation efforts and their local heritage.

The website will be unique in many ways, containing stories told by local residents collected during the village's cultural resources survey by its historic preservation consultant, Long Island Traditions, photographs, the survey forms of the Village's 53 surveyed sites, quizzes, and survey tools for those wishing to research their favorite site using professional but "user friendly" methods. In addition, the website will give landmark property owners easy access to various publications and forms including the Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness (CofA). The Commission also encourages members of other preservation commissions to view its documents as a way of easing the burden of creating similar materials.

The Commission website will feature several tour guide publications in the effort to attract more visitors to the Village, as part of its educational programs. Highlights include the famed Robertson Block, now home to several restaurants, which once boasted the first post office, a brothel and a tavern. The handsome art-deco telephone building, the first of its kind in the Great Neck peninsula, and the more recent 1964 Chase Manhattan building, constructed by The Architects Collaborative founded by Walter Gropius, are also featured and have been designated as Village Landmarks.

For those interested in the memories of long time residents, they will be able to listen to stories told by the late Harry Perlman, the Village's former Commissioner of Public Services and Building Inspector, about the community's change from a rural farming region to a cosmopolitan town strongly connected with the first headquarters of the United Nations. Others interested in documenting their historic sites will be able to download or view guidelines on taking photographs, interviewing residents, constructing architectural and site drawings, and doing research in local historical societies and other repositories.

"We feel that by having this site as part of the Village's online presence, more people within the community and around Long Island and the State will learn how the Village is committed to documenting and preserving its rich history," says Mayor Jean Celender. "Since 1976 and then later in 1999 when we strengthened our historic preservation regulations, the Village Board has taken several important steps to preserve our history and architecture, an effort that continues to be a priority for this administration." Commission Chair, Frank Gencorelli further states, "Our goal is to work with local residents on preserving the rich historic fabric and culture that makes Great Neck Plaza unique. We can assist historic property owners in maintaining their landmarks so that future generations of residents and visitors can appreciate the legacy that is part of our Village's history and culture. We look forward to working with you in this effort, and together we will share the proud tradition of preserving our historic architecture."

Designated local historic landmark, known as "The Grace Building" at 11 Middle Neck Road, built circa 1913.



## Town of North Hempstead S.T.O.P. Upcoming Dates

The S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) program offers residents 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.

Please take an extra moment to check labels for warnings, and please take advantage of the following S.T.O.P. dates to ensure safe disposal:

### Saturday June 7, 2008:

Solid Waste Management Authority Bldg. at 802 West Shore Road (next to Harbor Links golf course) in Port Washington.

### Saturday September 6, 2008:

Michael J. Tully Park/ Indoor Pool at 1801 Evergreen Ave. (off Denton Avenue) in New Hyde Park.

**For further information, call the Stop Hotline: (516) 767- 4600, or "311."**

**PLEASE NOTE: For safety reasons, NO materials will be accepted PRIOR TO 9:30 A.M. on a collection day, nor will they be accepted later than 3:00 P.M. sharp.**



## BIKES FOR FREEDOM

Ray Finkelstein had begun a project restoring old bikes and donating them to local charities. This enables people who cannot afford a bike to have a beautifully restored bike to ride this summer. Children and adult bikes in any condition may be donated to Ray by calling him at 516/487-0227. He will arrange for a pick-up at your convenience. He is also in need of some storage space for the fixed bikes. If you can help in any way, please call on Ray!

## Beautification Committee Ready For Spring

by Gail Grove, Chairperson

Trustee Gerry Schneiderman and Gail Grove admiring one of the newly planted pots on the LIRR bridge.



Take a walk or drive through our beautiful village and enjoy the newly planted pots which will soon be accompanied by flowering baskets. Don't miss the magnificent planters on Bond Street and those near the train station. The statuesque bamboo and bursts of color can put a smile on your face. After all, it was Ralph Waldo Emerson who said, "The earth laughs in flowers." Enjoy.

## Poem by Sylvia Schwartz

Where is all this killing lead to?

Families break up and then they are few

The more fighting we do the angrier we get

What happens to holidays and love and children lives to set?

People are greedy and instead of discussing peace and goodwill in a diplomatic way

They break up Nations and families and children have to do what they say

So why can't we have peace and live happy lives and accept one another?

And assert ourselves in a nice way and not have wars and understand each other.



Phil Raices, BID Board member and local realtor, sitting on a bench on Bond Street eating his breakfast, enjoying the sunshine, early spring and beautiful weather!



## Resident Parking & Pedestrian Safety Committee by Dan Wotman, Esq., Chairman

Are you aware of a particular intersection that is dangerous to pedestrians? Do you have difficulty finding a parking spot near your home? Do you have suggestions to fix these problems? We want to hear from you about these suggestions. We are a committee of Village residents who are actively working on pedestrian safety and parking issues.

Our Enforcement Sub Committee earlier this year identified specific top problem pedestrian safety spots around the Village and submitted a report through the Mayor to the NCPD, 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct, for targeted enforcement. We have seen an increase in police presence and enforcement at these "hot spot" areas. We continue to identify other safety areas to the Mayor/Sixth Precinct so that additional enforcement can be initiated. The Sixth Precinct has expanded activities via the use of random assignment of patrol vehicles under a new "Flex program", which allows the 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct's Commanding Office, Inspector Williams, to bring in officers from other precincts to address problem areas. We greatly appreciate the efforts of our local police precinct in stepping up enforcement in these areas.

The Education Sub Committee has developed a "BE AWARE" pedestrian safety flyer to be handed out at our Senior Centers and at presentations by the Mayor to our local Synagogues and Churches to raise the awareness of pedestrian safety while walking to and from houses of worship. The Education Sub Committee is selecting an appropriate article of reflective clothing to be handed out at houses of worship to be worn by children as they walk with their parents to and from houses of worship at night so that they can be visible to automobiles.

We continue to work with Mayor Celender on the new construction initiatives in our community to address traffic and pedestrian safety. Ground breaking took place last month on the Great Neck Road Project that has many traffic calming features including lane design, lighting, and pilot countdown pedestrian crossing signals. Additionally, designs have been fine tuned for Bond Street to install four bulb outs at the intersections with No. Station Plaza and Grace Ave. The size of the Bulb outs was reduced to accommodate turning traffic. There will be a complete resurfacing of the street. There is also the possibility of using the street as something of a restaurant row by closing the road at night to pedestrian traffic only, with outdoor music in the summer and outdoor seating. It was also discussed that parking on Welwyn Road is under consideration for some changes that would make it safer when exiting a parking spot.

The Committee continues to work with Mayor Celender on other traffic calming grants to reconstruct the Barstow Road and North Station Plaza/Linden Place intersection and an expansion of the use of stand alone yield signs on Bond Street and North Station Plaza.

Members of the public are invited to attend the Committee's next **Public Meeting**, which is scheduled for **Thursday, June 12, 2008 at Village Hall at 7:30 P.M.** Please come and give us your input and suggestions, and bring your neighbors too. We invite you to join our Committee and make the Village a safer place to live and work! Please feel free to contact Daniel Wotman at [wotmand@drwlaw.net](mailto:wotmand@drwlaw.net).

**FOCUS Honors Steven Penn** At a recent dinner at Café Rustica, Steven Penn, a long-time employee of the Plaza, was honored by FOCUS (Foundation of Community Unified Services, Inc.) for his personal achievements. FOCUS began by a group of parents of developmentally disabled children, who were concerned as to what would happen to their children, when they, the parents, were no longer around. They got together and formed FOCUS. Sheila Penn, mother of Steven, is a founding member of FOCUS and currently serves as Co-President. She is proud of her son's accomplishments to first live in a group home and then advance to living on his own in an apartment and being able to maintain employment; not only one job, but he has two positions. Steven, in addition to being a laborer with the Village's Department of Public Works, also works part-time at Clearview's Squire Theater on Middle Neck Road.

Steven was joined at the event by two other FOCUS honorees, Lee Waldbrom and Vicky Walsh, all of whom have shown tremendous personal courage. They enjoy their independence and appreciate the support systems that have helped enable them to achieve so much; of course, first their family and friends, and second, FOCUS. They have gotten beyond the barriers often fought by persons with developmental disabilities — they live on their own, maintain employment and have independent, fully-functioning lives. Steven has worked for the Village of Great Neck Plaza for over twenty years in the Department of Public Works. Stated Mayor Celender, "Steven has been a model employee, always giving 100%, or more, to his job and does it with a smile and is anxious to make a difference in the Village. He's a special person and I have enjoyed working with him for so many years. Steven, Vicky and Lee are an inspiration to us all, as they exemplify what it means to live life to one's fullest potential."

After years of hard work, frustration and a lot of heartbreak, and under the auspices of the ACID (Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities), a house was opened on Old Mill Road, next door to Temple Beth El, housing 12 developmentally disabled young adults, six of whom were from Great Neck. The house on Old Mill Road has been in existence for over 15 years. These young people learn life skills; shopping, cooking, etc. and how to get along with each other. Some mature well enough to be able to move on and out into their own apartments; the majority of them are in regular employment traveling to and from by bus. They are very proud that they are able to take home a salary. As long as FOCUS is in existence, six beds will be occupied by Great Neck residents, if possible. Anyone with a developmentally disabled child who would like further information about FOCUS, or to volunteer, please contact Sheila Penn, Co-President, at 487-0276. Pictured at the right are Honoree Steven Penn, Mayor Celender and Sheila Penn, Steven's Mom and FOCUS Co-President, at Café Rustica Dinner.



**Summer In The Park Concert Series 2008**  
**Enjoy Delightful Entertainment Under the Stars**  
**Jonathan Ielpi Firefighters Memorial on Grace Avenue**  
**Every Tuesday evening at 8PM, Thursday is our Rain Day**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PERFORMER</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
June 17	"Roadhouse," Highly Energetic, Modern Hot Country!	Citibank of Great Neck
June 24	"High Tide" Calypso and Reggae—Caribbean Sounds	Andrew Hotel & Astoria Federal Bank
July 1	"My Kind of Broadway," mellow voice of Frank Rendo	Edna Mashaal Realty, LLC
July 8	"Sweetwater" Disco & Popular Dance Music Group	Andrew Hotel & Community National Bank
July 15	"Stan Auld and The Big Band Sound"	Atria Senior Living Group
July 22	"G.I. Jukebox" WWII, Stage Door Canteen Retrospective	Wachovia Bank & Richland Management
July 29	"Sounds of Latin Rhythms" with the Paul Joseph Trio	The Great Neck Art Center
Aug 5	"Highway 49" Awesome Blues, Classic Rock & Oldies !	The Andrew Hotel & Verizon
Aug 12	Johnny Fusco, Singer and Impersonator Extraordinaire!	United Capital
Aug 19	"Juke Box Saturday Night" Plays music of the 40's-80's !	Great Neck Plaza Taxi
Aug 26	"Duke of Uke" Fabulous music of the '20's & '30's	Great Neck Collision, Elite Dental—Eliot Heisler, Daruma, Turn Key R.E.& Tower Ford
Sept 2	"Brother Peach," Allman Brothers Tribute Band	Pancho's Border Grill & The Andrew Hotel

Presented by the Village of Great Neck Plaza in cooperation with  
The Great Neck Park District & The Great Neck Arts Center,  
Regina Gil, Commissioner of the Arts & Executive Director of the GNAC  
Mayor Jean Celender and the Board of Trustees

**PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS AND THANK THEM FOR  
PROVIDING THIS CONCERT SERIES FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT!**

# Star Performer Award Set for June 19, 2008 at 9:30 A.M.

To nominate someone for the Star Performer Award select someone who works in the Plaza who goes out of their way to make you feel special, who makes Great Neck Plaza a better place for you to work, shop and live; just fill out the Nomination Form. 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. Call Carol Teplin at 482-4500 for more information and join us on Thursday, June 19th for a really "feel good" ceremony at 9:30 A.M, at Village Hall.

Here is a list of the June "Star Performer" recipients and their nominators:

- Wally Waugh of Waldbaum's, nominated by Jeffrey Schwartz
- Steven J. Derkatch of G.N. Opticians, nominated by Ruth Weiss
- Dominick Caroleo of LIRR, nominated by Barbara Stein
- Daryl Goins, George Malcolm, Jose Rodriguez, G.N. Library, Main Branch, nominated by Joan Antonoff

## "STAR PERFORMER" NOMINATION FORM

If you wish to nominate a "Star Performer" fill out the form below and mail it to Carol Teplin, Village of Great Neck Plaza, 2 Gussack Plaza, P.O. Box 440, Great Neck NY 11022. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 this newsletter by e-mail, fill out the form below and return it to us at Village Hall. Coming soon, you will also be able to go on-line and register on the Village's web site. The 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 Court Now Takes Credit Card Payment for Fines

Pattianne DiRosa, Clerk of VGNP's Court, announced that statewide initiatives introduced by the State Comptroller's Office have allowed the Plaza to now accept credit card payments for traffic fines. The Village had been investigating this possibility for years, however, there were many legal and other impediments to implementing the system.

NY State Comptroller, Tom DiNapoli's office, working with the Office of Court Administration, was able to implement the following measures:

**A uniform statewide technology system** for all justice courts, including case management software that is integrated with software used by OSC's Justice Court Fund and will enable all justices to file reports electronically with the Fund.

**Acceptance of credit card payments** by all justice courts in order to strengthen financial accountability and security.

**Expanded training** for justices and court clerks to include proper financial management training.

**Stronger town and village oversight** of court financial records.

Creating a **court clerk** function within each court, including the use of shared services.



## Senior Span Meeting June 10, 2008 at 10 A.M.

The Village of Great Neck Plaza Senior Span Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly since last fall to focus on developing assistance programs for the Plaza's senior citizens. Launched with the assistance of the Town of North Hempstead and following their widely successful program "Project Independence," the Plaza's program is being tailored to meet the needs of our elderly residents, who primarily live in multiple-family apartment buildings, to age in place.

A large part of the Senior Span program is to identify seniors that need supportive services and to identify the referral agencies and services that already exist and are available to assist them, such as health care monitoring and screening, connections to benefits and services, transportation, maintenance services in their homes, counseling, preventative care, as well as social, educational and recreational opportunities.

Through Senior Span, the Village will be offering monthly seminars for seniors on a variety of topics, ranging from nutrition to general health and senior education. These programs will be free of charge and open to the public.

The first program, entitled "Aging Well in Place" will be presented by Dr. Abraham Lurie on Tuesday, June 10 at 10:00 A.M. in Village

Hall. Dr. Lurie is highly regarded, a social work pioneer, and one of the leading social work experts in the field. His programs in psychiatry, healthcare and discharge planning are known throughout the world. His substance of contributions to the resocialization of schizophrenics and to the application of group methods in healthcare settings are exemplary. Dr. Lurie has not only dealt with basic research, i.e. the causes of mental illness, but also with regard to the socialization, resocialization and rehabilitation of the mentally ill. He is an advocate par excellence innovating some of the best mental health programs in the country. Dr. Abraham Lurie is a consummate social worker embodying the best in practice, research, management and program innovation.

For information on the seminar, the Senior Span Program or to get involved on a project or the Advisory Committee, please contact Carol Teplin at 482-4500.



## Homebound & Special Needs Residents Urged to Register with the Village

We want to know if you have any of the following situations so that we can update and expand our "Special Needs" resident database. We need to know where you are living, and your special circumstances so that we can locate you and notify our first responders in an emergency.

Please register with the Village by providing us with important information about your name, residence, and needs if you meet one or more of the following:

Elderly resident that is homebound.

Resident with an illness or situation requiring equipment and electricity 24 hrs. per day operating in your residence.

Resident with an illness taking medications that require refrigeration and immediate attention should we have an event where we might be without power for several days.

To register with the village, please contact Carol Teplin at 482-4500. We will share this list only with our emergency fire and ambulance personnel, so that special needs residents are identified as a first priority in our disaster event planning and emergency preparedness plan.

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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*We're on the web...*

*www.greatneckplaza.org*

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

6/1 Sunday, at Noon in Jonathan Ielpi Firefighters Memorial Park, Kickoff Meeting for the "Step to Montauk" 1st Annual Walk Event

6/1 to 6/8, Sunday to Sunday, is the 1st Annual "Restaurant Week" in the Village of Great Neck Plaza (see page 1 for details)

6/10 Tuesday, at 10 A.M. Senior Span Open Public Meeting featuring Dr. Abraham Lurie as our speaker

6/12 Thursday, at 7:30 P.M., Public Meeting of the Resident Parking and Pedestrian Safety Committee in Village Hall

6/19 Thursday, at 9:30 A.M., Star Performer Award Ceremony in Village Hall

**SAVE THE DATE:** 24th Annual AutoFest, Clothesline Art Show & Street Fair, Sept. 21, Noon to 5 P.M. (Rain Date Sept. 28th)



**Did you Know - Unclaimed State Monies Might Be Owed to You?**

The Village of Great Neck Plaza recently hosted a seminar with Michael Caplice, Long Island representative of the Hon. Thomas P. DiNapoli, New York State Comptroller. The purpose of his visit was to identify to Plaza employees and our residents that the State is currently holding billions of dollars in unclaimed funds. We were able to check on line to see if there is money which belonged to us. What we found is approximately one out of ten employees of the Village had unclaimed funds. So you could have monies owed to you too in unclaimed funds! So, please visit on-line the OSC Office of Unclaimed Funds, ([www.osc.state.ny.us](http://www.osc.state.ny.us)) for verification.

For your protection, banks, insurance companies, utilities, investment companies and many other businesses are required by State law to surrender inactive accounts to the State. The Office of the State Comptroller serves as custodian of this money until you claim it. The State of New York never takes ownership of this money. If you can prove you are entitled to the money, Comptroller DiNapoli's Office will gladly return it to you, at any time, without charge.

Only with proof of your entitlement will the amount of money and information be disclosed to you. Be sure to include your name, current and all previous addresses, and your social security number. It requires you to complete the form, get it notarized and to send it back to the State Comptroller's Office. The Village has several notaries at Village Hall that will assist you, free of charge, to complete the forms to get back your money. Come and see us!

