



PLAZA VOICE

FALL/WINTER 2007

VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

Mayor: Jean A. Celender
Deputy Mayor: Ted Rosen
Trustees: Gerry Schneiderman,
 Sheldon Goodman and Rafe
 Lieber
Clerk/Treasurer: Patricia
 O'Byrne
Editors: Carol Teplin and
 Beverly Safian

Village Presents Safety Seminars for Residents With Nassau County Police

The Village of Great Neck Plaza in association with the Nassau County Police Department, Community Affairs, hosted a seminar on Nov. 29th for the community in Village Hall on "Building and Personal Safety." This seminar, also being held at apartment buildings in the Plaza, has been a successful campaign by the Police Department to ~~give residents~~ helpful tips to increase security within their apartment buildings and homes. As previously stated by police officers in past seminars, "burglaries are a crime of opportunity, and this is sometimes created by a lack of security." In this seminar, residents were made aware of ways in which they can aid security within their homes and apartments, just by following some simple rules and tips. Deputy Mayor Ted Rosen, who has coordinated these seminars on behalf of the Village, stated that "While our village has been and is a relatively safe community, we can all do things to make it even safer, so I would urge all residents to try to attend one of these seminars. Also, we appreciate the assistance of the Nassau County Police Department

in helping us reach out to our residents in a proactive way regarding the safety and of their residences and the general community."

These seminars are informative, since an informed public is helpful to the Nassau County Police in crime prevention. Just being aware of what activities are going on in and around your own building, and keeping an eye out for a neighbor, or suspicious persons in the building or neighborhood, can go a long way in helping the Police Department, if an unauthorized person enters a building, and they are called in to assist.

No fee is charged for the Safety Seminars; they are offered as a community service by the Village. A County Police Officer from Community Affairs will make a brief presentation, followed by Q&A session.

If you would like to have a Safety Seminar held in your apartment building, either in the lobby or community room, for the convenience of your building's residents, please contact Carol Teplin, at 482-4500 to arrange a date. Again, we wish to thank Officer Gilberti and the Nassau County Police Community Affairs for their assistance to help our residents practice good crime prevention techniques.



Police Officer Thomas Gilberti, Nassau County Police Department, Community Affairs, addressing residents at a Safety Seminar.

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Plaza Welcomes
 New Merchants

Year End Greetings From Mayor Jean

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the year end and offer my greetings and best wishes for the year ahead. Like many of you, I find it hard to believe that another year is coming to an end. It is also at this time of year I look forward to spending time with my family and friends. While reflecting on the past year, I am reminded of how fortunate we are here in Great Neck Plaza. Through hard work and volunteerism in our community, our Village has never been stronger. There is much to be thankful for, including our dedicated Village staff and the fine people who make the Plaza a great place to live, work and shop.

Our DPW crew is fully staffed, equipped and ready to meet mother nature's winter storms, which we hope will be few, for a mild, non-stormy, uneventful winter season. Our web site (www.greatneckplaza.net) provides the latest information on Village events and how to contact various departments and other special district services should information or assistance be needed. I encourage everyone to join me in shopping locally this season. Please "Shop in Great Neck," and frequent our many fine retail stores, restaurants and service establishments that offer us everything from clothing and sporting goods to paint your own ceramics and pet pampering gifts. Our merchants are conveniently located within walking distance of many of our apartment buildings and single-family homes. Additionally, there is ample, free parking in our two, structured municipal parking garages after 3 PM weekdays and on Saturdays and Sundays. Supporting local merchants, not only demonstrates "Pride in Great Neck", (I hope you have noticed and like our newest banner), but helps keep our downtown shopping district vibrant and maintain the strong, stable housing prices in the surrounding residential neighborhoods. Why fight traffic and spend fuel to

drive 15-20 minutes or more to shop elsewhere, when it ends up not being any cheaper and you can help support your own community. Instead, use the time you save to spend more time with your family and friends and get to know a new merchant in town, or reacquainted with some of our old time merchants.

We are so pleased that Fredrick's Luncheonette has reopened recently, after a long hiatus refurbishing the interior. We feel fortunate to have this wonderful, long-time merchant back in operation, looking better than ever and still serving up the same delicious home-cooked, reasonable-priced food. Fredrick's, an institution in Great Neck, is located in a designated local historic building on Grace Avenue at Bond Street. I urge you to go visit the store and owner, Cliff Selby, and welcome him back.

Please be safe and enjoy everything this Holiday Season has to offer. Also help us to remember those less fortunate through toy and clothing drives or a year-end donation to a worthwhile charity or local non-profit community organization. These groups rely on our help and support for their operation and to continue providing the great programs and services offered for our residents. Remember them in this season of giving.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, we wish you and your family good health and a 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 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**

Quality of Life: Brief Dialogue/Discussion on Character Education

Trustee Sheldon M. Goodman, Ph.D.

Let's get one thing perfectly clear, we all can play a part in making our community a more comfortable place to live by being a character educator. What am I thinking when I offer this phrase? Let me tell you. By our everyday actions we can shape the character of our children, friends, and community-at-large. In the way we talk, the behaviors you model, the conduct you tolerate, the deeds you encourage, and the expectations you transmit. It is a deliberate effort to help people understand, care about, and act upon core ethical values. To judge what is right, care deeply about what is right, and then do what you believe to be right- even in the face of pressure from without and temptation from within. Be polite, listen to others, and use positive language. It's not an easy path to follow. When someone cuts us off when we are driving, helping the senior (or any) citizen who may have fallen, when a code officer stops us and asks us about a particular action we have taken, do we scowl, yell and push or do we reflect. This is the key that opens the door to understanding ourselves in relation to core ethical values. Character could be describes as "doing the right thing when no one is looking."

Thinking dispositions and thinking skills are central to a community of inquiry and caring. All opinions are to be respected. Assumptions, reasoning and evidence are checked- your own as well as of others. Points of agreement as well as difference are defined and discussed. If a challenge emerges, it should be to the ideas expressed and not the people expressing them.

Moral reflection is necessary to develop the cognitive side to character- the important parts of our moral selves that enable us to make moral judgments about our own behavior and that of others. This type of reflection enables learners to gain self-knowledge, to demonstrate their understanding of worthwhile moral values, take on the perspective of others, to reflect on why some actions are morally better than others, and to consider *alternatives* and *consequences* of actions. Whether reflection is verbal or written it is a key strategy for learning and a major tool for character education. Brain research suggests that brief periods of downtime aid in association, consolidate learning, and imprint memory.

Reflection can be done through journal writing, keeping a diary, essay writing and talking in groups, such as when one joins one of the Village's Committees. Reflection can follow such a civic activity. Being responsible and accountable for our actions and choices (and consequences) without blaming others will take us a long way toward what I would hope is a mutual goal of the residents of the Plaza, i.e., **civic mindedness**: getting involved in and contributing to our community and helping others.

Helpful Tips from Our Volunteer Fire Departments

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is serviced by two volunteer fire departments; Vigilant Engine & Hook & Ladder Company on the north side of the LIRR tracks, and Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department on the south side. Both departments ask for your help and cooperation by doing the following:

- Have the numerical address of your home legible from the street. This saves precious time in responding to an event.
- Have the Fire or Medical Emergency call numbers posted handy in your home in case of an emergency, such as by the telephone or on the refrigerator.

- Have a neighbor or family member available with a key within 5 minutes of your home so that the fire department can gain access in the event of an alarm activation of your home.
- Change the batteries once a year (if you didn't do it at daylight savings time, now would be a reminder to do so) to ensure these detectors are in proper working order.
- Have smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in your home where needed.
- Have a family evacuation plan and designated outside meeting place in the event of a fire.



Student Art Mural Project Awards

In an effort to continue the Plaza's beautification initiative, the Mayor again enlisted the help of Karen Cuchel, Director of the Art Department at Great Neck South High School, her art students and artist John DiNaro to paint a three sided mural in the courtyard area between the Maple Garage and 3 Grace Avenue.

With the blessing and permission of David Movtady, President of First Golden Bank, the group proceeded to spend over twenty hours of grueling but "lots of fun time," creating a true masterpiece of artwork! If you haven't yet seen the beautiful landscape mural, you must treat yourself to a glimpse; walk through 3 Grace Avenue (First Golden building) to the back door and open!

The students that volunteered their time and talent to this project received certificates of appreciation at a Board of Trustees Meeting in November. Mayor Celender presided over a ceremony thanking all of the artists, the teachers and David Movtady for their cooperative effort to produce a very remarkable piece of work to beautify the Village.

The students from Great Neck South High School that participated in this project are: Emily Levine, Sophie Lesser, Josh Kirshner, Brooke Weinberg, Corinne Sudberg, Rachel Olney, Amy Tse, Pamela Tsang, Yim Kwan Tsang, Dennis Guo, and Sukie Kwok.



Pictured here from left to right are Mayor Jean Celender, four of the young artists, David Movtady, and Trustee Gerry Schneiderman. Second Row: Trustee Rafe Lieber, Trustee Shelly Goodman and Deputy Mayor Ted Rosen.

Halloween Parade of Fun in Great Neck Plaza

The 3rd Annual Halloween in the Plaza took place on Oct. 31, 2007, in downtown Great Neck Plaza from 11:00AM to 6 PM. This year's event, a promotion of the Village's Business Improvement District (BID), was established to provide a wonderful, safe, fun-filled afternoon for children of all ages (and adults too who still love to have a goulish time and get into the Halloween spirit). Participating merchants offered candy and treats for the trick-or-treaters and many shop owners, and BID staff dressed up and decorated their stores in a Halloween theme. It is another event tied to a family holiday that has become a growing annual tradition to showcase our merchants and support a community event by bringing children and their families into Plaza stores. Mayor Jean Celender adds, "Everyone loves Halloween, and it's wonderful to see excited children all dressed up in their costumes having fun and enjoying the experience in our downtown." This year approximately 100 children walked in a sidewalk parade that started at the Gardens at Great Neck gazebo and went up Middle Neck Road, which added to making it a great event. For more information on the Plaza's downtown and its promotions, please call Ron Edelson, Executive Director of the BID, at (516) 829-1301.



BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE NEWS

By Gail Grove, Chairperson

The Beautification Committee of Great Neck Plaza is dedicated to enhancing the look of our great town. Do you want to see more art, flowers and exciting window displays? We would like you to join us and help beautify the Plaza. What are your thoughts as you stroll through town? Tell us at our next meeting on January 7, 2008 at 6:15 at the Village Hall. We look forward to your joining us, please call Carol Teplin at 482-4500 to RSVP.

Pictured below are Trustee Gerry Schneiderman, David Kirschenbaum, Gail Grove, Beverly Goodman, and Steve Goodman. Missing from this photo is you!



MEET TRUSTEE, RAFE LIEBER

Rafe Lieber, a 26 year resident of the Village of Great Neck Plaza, was sworn in on November 7th as the newest Trustee to the seat vacated by the untimely death of Trustee Joel Liebowitz. He has worked on virtually every level of government including stints with United States Congressman Gary Ackerman, Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi, North Hempstead Supervisor Jon Kaiman and he currently serves as the Chief of Staff to New York State Senator Craig Johnson. Aside from Rafe's work in government, he has been very involved in the Great Neck community where he served as a member of the board of directors of the Great Neck Chamber of Commerce and the Great Neck Arts Center. He has been a member of the Great Neck Rotary, as well as the New York State Urban and Community Forestry Council and Long Island ReLeaf (a local environmental advocacy group). A student of government for over a decade, Rafe adds, "I look forward to bringing my government experience to my position as Trustee to help improve the quality of life for the residents of the Village. I vow to be a tireless advocate for Plaza constituents and will work to make sure we continue to remain the best place to live in Great Neck." Rafe lives right around the corner from where he grew up on Brompton Road, with his wife, Jennifer, and their 20 month old son, Joseph.

RESIDENT PARKING & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWS

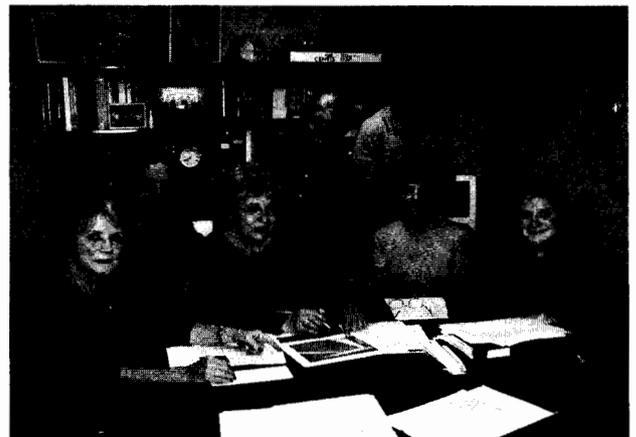
By Daniel R. Wotman, Esq., Chairman

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? We want to hear from you at our next Town Hall Meeting open to all residents of the Village on January 31, 2008 at 7:30 P.M. at Village Hall. We are a committee of Village residents who are actively working on pedestrian safety and parking issues. We are identifying specific pedestrian safety problem areas in the Village and preparing a report to the Mayor and Board of Trustees with recommendations to make these intersections safer for pedestrians. We will also be working with the Nassau County Police Sixth Precinct seeking their assistance to make them aware of high levels of moving violations at these intersections.

The Committee is also seeking public comment at our Village Hall meeting on January 31, 2008 at 7:30 P.M. on the Village's proposed project to expand out the curbs on Bond Street at the Grace Avenue and North Station Plaza intersections, called bulb-outs, to provide safer crosswalks for pedestrians.

The Committee is also spearheading the formation of a Coalition of Pedestrian Safety Committees of the Great Neck Peninsula and the Town of North Hempstead in an effort to coordinate the efforts of all Villages and the Town. We will also be conducting educational outreach programs for drivers and pedestrians, including a safety fair, stop sign awareness, dangers of cell phone use while driving, education at our public schools and programs for our elderly at assisted living facilities. The Committee will also be working with the Mayor and the Village on additional proposed pedestrian safety projects on Barstow Road at the intersections of Linden Place and North Station Plaza and Grace Avenue and also sidewalk improvements in and around the LIRR train station area.

We invite you to join our Committee and make the Village a safer place to live and work! Please feel free to contact me at wotmand@drwlaw.net.



Update on Village's Storm Water Management Program

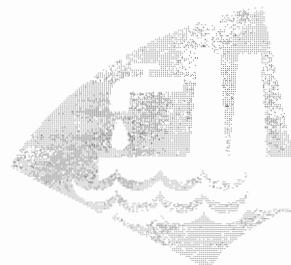
The Village of Great Neck Plaza has joined with Nassau County's Department of Public Works on an inter-municipal coalition with other local villages, towns cities to implement Nassau County Stormwater Management Program (NCSWMP). This consortium, which includes fifty-seven municipalities in the County, has not only been recognized by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as a model for implementing a regional storm water program, but has also received one of the largest grants, totaling \$500,000 to the County, that the state awarded.

The NCSWMP includes a listing of pollutants and the steps that will be implemented by the County and Village in order to achieve the regulatory standard of reducing pollutants in the storm water to the maximum extent practicable.

If you see someone dumping into our storm sewer or having an illegal connection to it, call Commissioner of Public Services, Michael Sweeney, at 482-4500 to report it. We urge you to help us prevent illicit discharges into the storm sewer system, as pollutants end

up reaching and impacting our surface waters.

Illicit Discharges can also be reported to the County's **Illicit Hotline at (516) 571-6883**, or a form to report such discharges is available on the village's web site at www.greatneckplaza.net.



NassauRx Card Saves Money on Drugs

Village of Great Neck Plaza and all Nassau County residents can save money on their prescription drug purchases using the **NassauRX** card, developed by Nassau County Comptroller, Howard S. Weitzman. Since its debut in July 2004, Nassau County residents using the card have saved over \$3 million on their prescription drug purchases.

The **NassauRX** card is free, and is not tied to a health insurance program. Rather it is a free discount card that eliminates the need to comparison shop for prescription drugs. Under the program every participating pharmacy is required to charge the same price for a given drug. Nassau residents never have to pay full retail prices on commonly prescribed drugs, whether a brand-name or generic.

Anyone can use the **NassauRX** card, regardless of age or income. Even if you have health insurance that covers some of your prescriptions, the **NassauRX** card will save you money on the prescriptions that your insurance company doesn't cover.

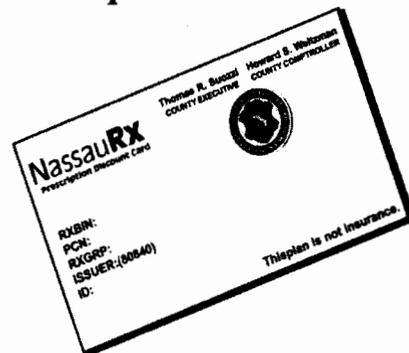
The average savings per prescription is 24% or about \$17. The card is honored at more than 90% of the pharmacies in Nassau, including all the major drug store chains.

How do I get a **NassauRx** card? There are no forms or paperwork to fill out. All it takes is a toll-free phone call to 1-877-321-2652 to obtain your card. It will arrive by mail ready to use. You can also obtain information about the card program on-line at the **NassauRx** website at: www2.caremark.com/nassaurx.

States Nassau County Comptroller Howard Weitzman, who developed the program, "As health insurance costs continue to soar, prescription drugs are responsible for the bulk of the increase. Every resident can save money on this program and I urge you to call and get a free **NassauRX** card. Call my toll-free number at 1-877-321-2652 today and start saving money on prescription drugs."



*The Free
Prescription Discount Card*



"Senior Span" New Initiative With Town of North Hempstead

With the assistance of the Town of North Hempstead and its unique initiative "Project Independence," the Village of Great Neck Plaza recently held a senior seminar to gauge the demands for a similar program to provide services in the Plaza. Project Independence, is a pilot program, the first of its kind in a municipality, and the Town of North Hempstead has assumed a leadership role in helping seniors age in place. By remaining in their own homes and familiar surroundings as they grow older, seniors feel more independent, safe and can get needed services to help improve their quality of life.

While Project Independence serves currently only two census tracts in the unincorporated area of New Hyde Park, Mayor Jean Celender approached Supervisor Jon Kaiman and Project Independence Director, Caisy Goldschmidt and the late Commissioner of Community Services, Madge Kaplan, to partner with the Village to review creation of a similar program that could be brought to the Plaza's seniors. Great Neck Plaza has more than 1,900 persons

age 60 years or older and represents a large and growing segment of our population.

Approximately 60 seniors attended an afternoon seminar in October, which included presentations by Supervisor Jon Kaiman, Mayor Jean Celender, VGNP Housing Commissioner Sheryl de los Rios, Director of Community Services for the Town Rebecca Miller, Regina Anderson and Nicole Hanlon (EISEP) Supervisors from Family and Children's Association, and Carol Teplin. Surveys were handed out to assess the services needed by seniors, including transportation, nursing and social work, medication management, home screenings, other counseling, and respite care.



Jon Kaiman & Jean Celender at Senior Seminar.

From the initial seminar, the Village is optimistic that Senior Span will become a viable program partnering with the Town. One of the key successes in Project Independence is the development of a community-based Advisory Committee and professional staff. This Advisory Committee assists in creating support groups, clubs and monthly "chats" to bring seniors health screenings, blood pressure and health checks, and vaccinations.

If you would like to volunteer to serve on the Senior Span Advisory Committee and have the opportunity to contribute to a worthwhile program helping seniors in Great Neck Plaza, please contact Carol Teplin at (516) 482-4500. More details will be forthcoming on the program as we formulate the program with the assistance of the town. Stated Mayor Celender, "We greatly appreciate and want to thank Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Jon Kaiman for his vision and cooperation to expand and bring their successful program here to help our seniors."

"Poetry Sundays" Next Reading To Feature Poet Kate Light, Dec. 16 at 2 PM

At the Nov. 18th "Poetry Sundays," Great Neck's acclaimed poetry reading series, participants were treated to two renowned local poets, Patti Tana and Susan Astor. Poetry Sundays is presented by the Great Neck Arts Center and hosted by the Village of Great Neck Plaza in Village Hall on Gussack Plaza.

Patti Tana is Professor of English at Nassau Community College and associate editor of the *Long Island Quarterly*. She is the author of seven books on poetry, most recently, *Make Your Way Across This Bridge: New & Selected Writings* and *This is Why You Flew Ten Thousand Miles*. She is also editor of a new anthology of poems by 63 women, *Songs of Seasoned Women*.

Susan Astor has had her poetry published in a great many journals and magazines, including *The Paris Review* and *Partisan Review* and in several anthologies of modern verse, including *Silent Voices* and *A Wildflower Almanac*. Two collections of her work are in print: *Dame* and *Spider Lies*. Ms. Astor has won several prizes for her work. For the past 25 years she has had much success as a poet-in-the-schools, teaching students of all ages and abilities. She also teaches classes for children in local libraries and runs a workshop for adult students in her home.

Carolyn Raphael, Chair of the Poetry Advisory Board and founder of this poetry series, invites you to the next reading date, which will be **Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2 PM** at Great Neck Plaza

Village Hall for readings that day by acclaimed poet Kate Light. Tickets are \$5, including refreshments. We invite you to come hear the fine poems of talented writers, which truly come alive when you hear them read their own work. Call the Great Neck Arts Center at (516) 829-2570 for further information.



Left to Right: Deputy Mayor Ted Rosen, Poets Patti Tana & Susan Astor, and Carolyn Raphael, Chair Poetry Advisory Board, at Nov. 18th Poetry Sundays reading.

**VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK
PLAZA**

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Dates to Remember:

December 16, 2 PM, "Poetry Sundays" Reading in Village Hall, Poet Kate Light

December 20, 7 PM, Verizon Franchise Public Meeting, Great Neck South Middle School Auditorium

January 10, 7:30 PM, Holocaust Exhibit Opening in Village Hall

Plaza Welcomes New Merchants

The Village is happy to welcome the following businesses that have opened or reopened in the Plaza. Stop in and greet these merchants and say "hello." They bring vitality, diversity and new life to our community.

If you are new storeowner in town, the Plaza would be happy to provide a free Ribbon Cutting ceremony to celebrate your opening. Call Carol Teplin at the Village, 482-4500, and she will help coordinate one with you.

- Frederick's Luncheonette, 14 Grace Ave., an old favorite coffee shop, and novelty store reopened
- Ethos Greek Restaurant, 25 Middle Neck Road (Seafood restaurant, Greek style)
- Kron Chocolatier, moved to 24 Middle Neck Road, (Freshly-made chocolate and elegant gift baskets)
- Muddworks at 6C Bond Street, (Paint your own ceramics, with a party room for birthdays and other special events)
- Nikia moved to 26 Middle Neck Road (Jewelry store and other women's accessories)
- State Farm Insurance at 45 So. Middle Neck Road
- Angel's Medi-Spa at 23 Middle Neck Road (Day spa with beauty treatments for face and body)



Kron Chocolatier



Fredrick's Luncheonette



Ethos Genuine Greek Restaurant