

Plaza Voice
Village of Great Neck Plaza
June 2010



Mayor Jean A. Celender, Deputy Mayor Ted M. Rosen

Trustees Ted M. Rosen, Gerry Schneiderman, Pam Marksheid and Marion Green

Clerk Treasurer - Patricia O'Byrne

Great Neck Plaza Plans 3rd Annual Restaurant Week

Celebrating the third annual Restaurant Week, the Village of Great Neck Plaza, sponsored by its Business Improvement District (BID), invites all residents and Long Islanders to enjoy the eclectic and tasty menu styles of more than 20 of its restaurants throughout the week of June 6 to June 13. All participating restaurants will offer Prix Fixe dinners for \$22.10, making for a wonderful night out.

Great Neck Plaza is a dining destination that is both diverse and vibrant. "We have a variety of restaurants offering Asian, Mexican, Greek, Continental, Italian, Mediterranean and American style foods," said Jay Corn, Vice President of the BID. "The décor of these restaurants are inviting and warm, allowing for a family night out or an intimate meal."

"Restaurant Week is a wonderful opportunity to try the diverse and excellent cuisines available in our many fine participating restaurants," said Great Neck Plaza Mayor Jean Celender.

"In our past two Restaurant weeks, our restaurants experienced a 10-15% increase in patrons," stated Trustee Gerry Schneiderman. "We look forward to another great turnout where families can enjoy the eclectic foods on display for a very reasonable price."

The friendly atmosphere of Great Neck Plaza is the perfect setting to enjoy the best in North Shore dining. All participating Restaurant Week businesses are within walking distance of convenient parking available on-street and in municipal parking fields and garages, and the LIRR train station.

A Promenade night, where Bond Street is closed to pedestrian traffic only, and the restaurants have al fresco dining and bands in the street, which has been previously held during the week of Restaurant Week, is being postponed this year due to reconstruction work taking place on Bond Street starting June 1.



A Promenade is being planned for later in the summer, when the reconstruction of the Bond Street bulbouts will be completed. Stay tuned, for we have yet to determine a July or August date, which will be announced shortly.

Please call the BID at (516) 829-1301 for more information on Restaurant Week or visit their website at www.shopgreatneck.com.



With Gail Alles, Exec. Director, Mayor Jean Celender presented a proclamation to Mae Anderman upon her 103rd birthday at the Atria Cutter Mill. We wish Mae all the best—good health, lots of love and happiness in the year ahead!

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Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

It's finally spring; a time for clean-up, landscaping and beautifying our streetscape with hanging flowers and potted floral arrangements. As a reminder to our residents and merchants, please join us in cleaning your windows, awnings and sidewalk areas in front of your place to help us keep the village looking beautiful, clean and tidy.

In this edition you will see our line up of Summer Concerts for the 2010 season. These concerts in Jon's Park stand to be another year of terrific performances. We have invited back some of your favorite groups, and added some exciting bands for fresh new sounds. We try to pick a variety of music genres for your enjoyment and we always attempt "to have something for everyone." The concerts start on Tuesday, June 15th.

We are trying this year for the first time an indoor space (as a rain location) up the street at the Great Neck Senior Center, 80 Grace Avenue. We appreciate so much Ann Tarcher, Executive Director, and the Board of the Senior Center for their cooperation in offering their facility. It helps to know that concerts will go on as planned every Tuesday night each week, either in Jon's Park, or if called for inclement weather, at the Senior Center. So I hope this will prove to make for a better series, following the lead of the Great Neck Park District and their Steppingstone Park concerts.

We welcome sponsorships of the concerts to help defray the rising costs of these shows. Merchants or organizations that would like to help, please contact me 482-4500. There are still full and partial sponsorships of the weekly shows and we price these sponsorships at affordable levels - a full concert is \$1,000 and half/quarter sponsorships are \$500 and \$250, respectively. We also have a \$100 supporter level. Our thanks to the Great Neck Park District for the use of Jon's Park and to Regina Gil from the Great Neck Arts Center, our Commissioner of Arts, for their support and cooperation on this favorite program.

We are fortunate to have the openings of many new stores monthly (see page 8) and others that are coming soon. We hope this is a sign of better times ahead for our merchants and downtown. A great many openings have been restaurants,

adding new cuisines and ethnic foods that diversify our downtown eateries. The Plaza's Business Improvement District has scheduled its 3rd Annual Restaurant Week for Sunday, June 6 to 13th with special prix fixe dinners. I hope you will get out to one or more of our restaurants during this week, where you can get a great meal at an affordable price. As they say, "try it, you'll like it."

It's also the construction season and we have signed contracts for implementing several of our traffic calming grants for Barstow Road, North Station Plaza and Linden Place, and bulbout extensions on the sidewalks for Bond Street. We ask for your patience and understanding during this period of construction. We will be constructing sidewalk extensions, or bulbouts on Bond Street, from North Station Plaza to Grace Avenue, on the street corners, and repaving the road. On the Barstow Road/North Station Plaza and Linden Place project we will provide more visible crosswalks with pedestrian refuges, and tightening up of this intersection to slow down motorists and to make it easier for pedestrians to cross in this busy location.

Did you notice in our sign displays our 1st "Poem for the Passerby?" Thanks to the creative talents of poet Carolyn Raphael and graphic designer Tara Gordon, we now will have poems displayed monthly for your reading enjoyment.



Carolyn Raphael (left) and Tara Gordon (right)

I wish you all a relaxing, fun-filled summer and hope to see you soon at Jon's Park on a Tuesday night for some fun and entertaining music during our Summer Concert Series. Enjoy!

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: _____

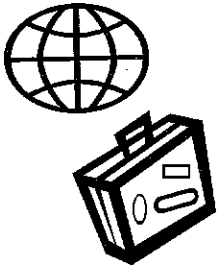
ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

PHONE * _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Senior Span Advisory Committee Update



The next meeting of the Senior Span Program, which assists our growing senior citizen population to age gracefully in place, is Thursday, June 17th at 10:00 a.m. We are proud to announce that Ms. Mary Vinquist, a retired former technology support professional and college teacher and currently an ambassador for Exploritas, will speak about Exploritas, which specializes in commercial travel programs. Exploritas, the world's largest not-for-profit educational travel organization, was formerly know as Elderhostel.

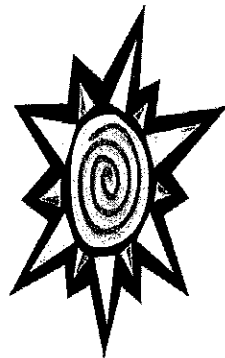
Ms. Vinquist will present a brief presentation, focusing on the broad range of programs offered and the added value of the Exploritas Educational experience for the participants. Programs range from "traditional" trips at home and abroad via land, sea and air to short programs that can be only a single day. These latter are called Days of Discovery. There will be printed material available. She will also embellish her talk with educational reflections from some of her programs with Exploritas in Italy, India and Nepal, as well as the U.S. and compare them with traditional tours she has taken. Following her presentation, there will be a Q&A session. We look forward to welcoming Mary and listening to her presentation. Refreshments will be served for this event.

The Advisory Committee is actively working and has developed a "Friendly Reassurance Call Program" to contact seniors who are homebound and the isolated and frail elderly, to provide a safety check, give emotional support and to inform seniors of available services. The Reassurance Calls are made by volunteers and the calls are from five to ten minutes in length at a mutually agreed upon time. These calls give seniors a sense that they are not isolated, but part of a greater community who cares about their well being. Volunteer callers are properly screened and trained and the privacy of the elderly recipients is of the utmost concern to us. Any senior or homebound resident that would like to get "Friendly Reassurance Calls" are requested to sign up for the program by calling Mayor Jean Celender at (516) 482-4500, ext. 114 with your name and telephone number. There is no need for you to feel alone anymore.

Great Neck Senior Center Veterans Club Meeting of May 14th

Keep your home running efficiently with a free home energy audit from LIPA REAP!

A household is income eligible when the combined income of all residents is at or under the following amounts:



1-800-263-6786

Family Size	Monthly Gross Income	Annual Gross Income
1	\$4,157	\$49,882
2	4,751	57,008
3	5,345	64,134
4	5,938	71,260
5	6,413	76,961
6	6,888	82,662
7	7,364	88,362
8	7,839	94,063

(Add \$5,701 to the annual gross income for each additional family member over 8 persons.)

Eligible LIPA customers (owners or renters) may receive **FREE** compact fluorescent light bulbs and/or a **FREE** brand-new Energy-Star refrigerator if the current refrigerator fails our energy-efficiency test.

The Bronx borough historian, Professor Lloyd Ultan, of Fairleigh Dickinson University, and the City University of New York, addressed the Veterans Club at the Great Neck Senior Center, which meets 2 p.m. the second Friday of the month. Professor Ultan presented to a large crowd on the contributions of war veterans from the Bronx, which included Major William Francis Deegan, and Major Colin Powel. "Bronx history is the history of the nation in microcosm," said Ultan. "Every important movement in American history also affected the Bronx."

A WWII Veterans band, "The Melody Makers," George Levy (vocals) and Paul Sparber (guitar), opened the meeting with a few songs including "All of Me."

Interested in participating? For further information, or to join the Veterans Club, please contact Mel Sachs at (516) 487-9125.



Next Star Performer Awards - July 16th at 9:30 a.m.

"STAR PERFORMER" NOMINATION FORM

If you wish to nominate a "Star Performer" please complete this form and mail it to **Star Performer, Village of Great Neck Plaza, Village Hall, 2 Gussack Plaza, P.O. Box 440, Great Neck NY 11022.** 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:

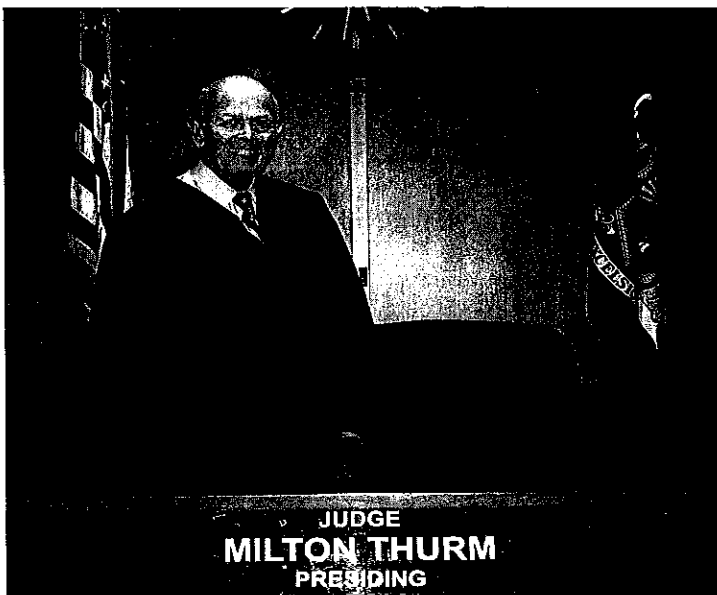
To nominate someone for the Star Performer Award you select someone who works in a shop or business who goes out of their way to make you feel special, and who makes Great Neck Plaza a better place for you to work, shop and live. Potential "Star Performers" greet you with a smile, are eager to help, treat you with dignity, respect and patience so that it's a genuine pleasure to do business in the Plaza.

Just fill out the Nomination Form and mail it back to us. It's that simple. Call 482-4500 for more information or to nominate a "Star Performer" and join us on Friday, July 16th, at 9:30 a.m. for a really "feel good" ceremony at Village Hall.

Refreshments will be served.



A Fond Farewell to Village Justice Milton Thurm



Village Justice Milton Thurm resigned at the end of March to permanently relocate to Florida. Judge Thurm served for three years and during his tenure he was highly regarded for the manner in which he conducted Court. He would always explain court procedures and answer questions of defendants. Stated Mayor Celender, "we will miss Judge Thurm as he was a kind and caring judge, making sure that when people came before him they were treated fairly, with dignity, respect and patience, and even when they had to pay a fine, they understood the reason and left with a feeling that they had a good experience in the Plaza's Court."

Clerk of the Court, Pattianne DiRosa described her working with Judge Thurm, as "It's been my honor to work with your Honor." We wish Judge Milton and his wife, Phyllis, all the best in their new home in Boca Raton, Florida.

Summer Concerts 2010 - Jonathan Ielpi Park Gazebo

Tuesdays under the stars at 8 p.m.!

**No Rain Date; If called for inclement weather, concerts will be indoors at
the Great Neck Senior Center, 80 Grace Avenue**

- June 15 "Something Special Big Band" Phil Costa
- June 22 "Latin Salsa Swing" Mambo Loco
- June 29 "Ramp Family Caribbean Band" Reggae & Steel Drum
- July 6 "JC Diva Revue" Streisand, Celine, Tina
- July 13 "Savannah Sky" Country & Line Dancing
- July 20 "Fly Me to The Moon" Frank Sinatra Tribute by Jerry Cardone
- July 27 "Highway 49" Country & Blues
- Aug 3 "Disco Divas" starring Carol Douglas & Carol Williams
- Aug 10 "Great Neck Arts Center" Divine Opera Night
- Aug 17 "Goin' Hollywood" musical revue by Plaza Theatrical
- Aug 24 "Paul 'Shilts' Weimar" Jazz Artist & Friends
- Aug 31 "A Fabulous Night of Broadway" Choral Ensemble
- Sept 7 "Middle-Eastern Music" a salute to Persian culture night
- Special New Sunday Concert—Sunday in the Park—3 p.m. on August 8 (with rain date of August 15)
"Dad & Daughter Broadway Duets" Moore Music

Priceless Entertainment, Entirely Free to the Public!

Presented by the Village of Great Neck Plaza

In cooperation with the Great Neck Park District & The Great Neck Arts Center

Sponsorships are available for our concerts—please call 482-4500. We will identify your business on the program, announce you at the concert and it helps defray our costs. Thank you to all our sponsors.

Middle Neck Road Pedestrian and Bicyclist Transportation Enhancement Project (TEP) Update

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is implementing the Middle Neck Road Pedestrian and Bicyclist Transportation Enhancement Project (TEP), which proposes a variety of upgrades to increase pedestrian safety and general accessibility in the vicinity of the Middle Neck Road, Great Neck train station and North Station Plaza area. The project has received federal funding through the New York State Department of Transportation.

The section of Middle Neck Rd. located between North Station Plaza and South Station Plaza is particularly problematic. Located adjacent to the Great Neck LIRR train station and bus terminal, much of its vehicular and pedestrian traffic in this section consists of train and bus commuters and tourists using this transportation hub. The station attracts a large volume of pedestrians on a daily basis and existing facilities are no longer managing the flow of traffic efficiently, and could be made safer.

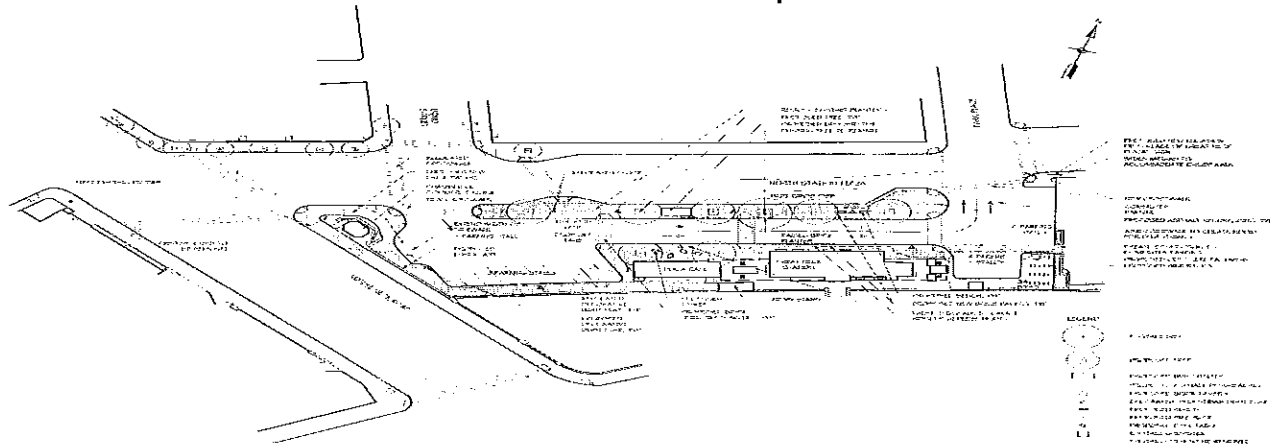
Pedestrian access routes to and from the LIRR train station around Middle Neck Rd. and North Station Plaza are in poor condition. The existing crosswalks and sidewalk ramps do not offer the shortest crossings, and the majority are not designed for handicapped accessibility. Within the train station plaza, vehicles dominate the spatial layout, even though users are predominantly pedestrians. The queuing lanes are structured counter-intuitively and provide a less than desirable environment for pedestrians moving in and out of the station. Existing sidewalks around the station and on the south side of North Station Plaza are narrow, the curb and concrete is deteriorating, and not consistent with the Village's brick standard evident throughout the Plaza.

The TEP Project will improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety and accessibility to/from Middle Neck Rd. and North Station Plaza to the Great Neck Plaza rail station and bus stop. This goal will be achieved by the following improvements:

- creating safer and more direct crosswalks
- widening the existing sidewalks and using the Village's distinct brick pavers and Central-Park light fixtures to alert motorists that they are entering a gateway to a high pedestrian activity location
- adding several benches around the rail station and bus stop to improve the waiting situation for commuters, and as resting areas for our senior citizens
- adding new planters and trees to make the area more attractive, and eliminating existing planters that are obstructions to pedestrians and bus riders
- Installing and organizing bicycle racks to create a designated area for commuters and recreational cyclists, thereby helping to promote bicycle travel as an alternative means of transportation to reach the train station
- Implementing a work of public art (mosaic tile piece) as a display area within this newly designed plaza. The art piece construction will be financed through obtaining private and corporate donations, not through public tax monies, as was done for the Village's first Trompe L'oeil Public Art Project installed on Maple Drive.

The TEP Project is part of the Village's overall comprehensive enhancement plan developed in stages for traffic calming, improved walkability and enhancement of the community, attracting tourism, encouraging growth and economic revitalization, promoting safety and accessibility for pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists throughout the Village. The project is currently in the final design stages with an anticipated construction start date of late summer of 2010.

Middle Neck Road TEP Concept Plan



MIDDLE NECK ROAD CONCEPTUAL PLAN

DATE: 05/20/10

(Note: Plan can be viewed and downloaded on our website at www.greatneckplaza.net under "Traffic Calming Initiatives.")

Mayor Attended NYCOM Main Street Conference on Downtown Economic Development

Mayor Jean Celender recently attended a New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) 2010 Main Street Economic Development Workshop in Utica. It was a one-day workshop focusing on local economic development and assisting cities, villages and non-profit organizations working in these communities about new tools and strategies for revitalization in this current economic climate.

Stated Mayor Celender "my goal in attending this workshop was to learn about successful approaches being implemented elsewhere in New York State. It's very helpful to network with fellow mayors, colleagues in government and to hear about their challenges, opportunities, and success stories, and to see what strategies might assist us here." Professional speakers included Joseph Rabito, Deputy Commissioner and Chris Leo, Program Director Office of Community Renewal, DHCR on New York State's Main Street Program.

Mayor Celender and her administration is working hard to position the village to take advantage of this recently revamped program which now offers municipalities the opportunity to apply directly in this successful grant program that provides up to a maximum of \$500,000 to awardees to make improvements on their Main Streets, including façade improvements, creating affordable housing and strengthening the overall economic vitality of the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods. Eligible individual property owners in the target area of the grant are able to get up to \$50,000 cash incentive toward the cost of improvements in their building and \$25,000 for each residential unit converted or renovated.

"This could be a major incentive for our property owners," indicated Mayor Celender, "and help us move forward in this recession and encourage investments in our downtown properties. It would serve as a catalyst for downtown revitalization and address current vacancies and disinvestment in our downtown."

This has been proven to be a successful model all over the state, and certainly a worse situation presently exists in upstate New York where industries have been closing and/or leaving the state, creating downtowns and communities with significant areas of disinvestment of properties and blighted conditions.

We are looking to be ready for the next round of funding as we are working on modifications needed to our B Business District zoning to enable us to have redevelopment projects and opportunities consistent with the program guidelines and grant eligibility criteria.

We urge interested residents and property owners to stay tuned as we complete the B District zoning analysis and hold meetings to discuss the study results and recommendations, and solicit public input and comments.



(Left to Right): Joseph Rabito, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Community Renewal, DHCR on New York State's Main Street Program, Mayor Jean Celender and NYCOM President and Mayor Gary Vegliante of West Hampton Dunes

Stormwater Management Program Update

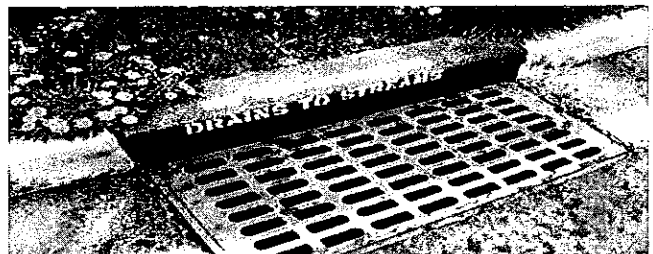
We regularly report in our quarterly newsletter on stormwater management issues. You might not think this is relevant, but it is extremely important. Most stormwater discharges, such as the village's stormwater system, is considered a point source by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and operators of these sources are required to receive a DEC Municipal Permit, a SPDES General Permit to operate our MS4. The term "MS4" is an acronym referring to a municipal separate storm water system under federal rules (Title 40 of the Federal Regulations in Part 122.2) and the jurisdiction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which issues us a permit annually before we can discharge our stormwater.

This permitting mechanism is designed to prevent stormwater runoff from washing harmful pollutants into local surface waters such as streams, rivers, lakes or coastal waters. So much of what you can't see in our pipes may be an example of discharges that are NOT good for the environment. Because the quality of our surface waters is related to the stormwater and its quality, we want to remind our residents to do their part in preventing pollution from entering our storm drains.

We want to encourage practices in and around your homes/apartment buildings that will prevent pollution.

We recently published our Annual Report for Year 7 on our village website for the opportunity of residents and the public to provide comments. We welcome your input, and feel free to review the report and provide the Board of Trustees with any suggestions or comments you may have to: info@greatneckplaza.net.

For suggestions on ways in which our residents can help us improve the quality of our surface waters, and to report any activity suspected of being an illicit discharge into our storm drain system, visit our website at www.greatneckplaza.net and click the box on the right entitled "Stormwater Management."



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:

Restaurant Week June 6 to June 13th, participating restaurants offer Prix Fixe dinners for \$22.10; Enjoy!

Sunday, June 13th, "I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale," with a rain date of Sunday, June 27th

Tuesday, June 15th, first concert in the park, "Something Special," Swing/Big Band sound with Phil Costa, 8 p.m. in Jon's Park

Thursday, June 17 at 10:00 a.m., Senior Span Open Meeting with Speaker, Mary Viquist from Exploritas (Formerly Elderhostel)

Friday, July 16th at 9:30 a.m., Star Performer Award Ceremony at Great Neck Plaza — Village Hall

SAVE THE DATE: September 26th, Noon — 5 p.m., our 26th Annual AutoFest, Clothesline Art Show & Street Fair,

Rain Date: Sunday, October 3rd

Plaza Welcomes New Stores

The Village is happy to welcome new businesses. They bring vitality, diversity and new life to our community. If you are new storeowner in town, or an existing business celebrating a milestone anniversary, or recently moved to a new location, the Plaza will provide a free Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate your event. Call Mayor Jean Celender at the Village, (516) 482-4500 to set a date.

- 2012 Café, Glatt Kosher Mexican, 105 Middle Neck Road
- 9 Foot Spa, 19 Middle Neck Road, to relax, pamper yourself and enjoy a foot massage
- American Laser Center, 15 Barstow Road
- Crave 11025, a new upscale restaurant serving healthy and flavorful food fare, located at 68 Middle Neck Road
- Men's Shop by Guiseppe's Custom Clothiers, 11 Cutter Mill Road, a new men's clothing store



The ribbon cutting for 2012 Café at 105 Middle Neck Road, was a real happening! Owners Michael and Ariel Kahan, were so welcoming to all the guests at their new Glatt Kosher Mexican-Fusion restaurant. The food is fresh, original, tasty, and full of flavor! Try it, you'll like it!