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Wantagh Preservation Society

2012 June/July

# The Information Window



*Original Wantagh Post Office  
(above photo)  
Roger Chiljean addresses Trustees  
(bottom photo)*



## Interior Renovation of Wantagh's Original Post Office

Architect Roger A Chiljean has been hard at work painstakingly detailing a plan for the interior renovations of Wantagh's original Post Office. The interior of the vintage building, which now stands on the grounds of the Wantagh Museum Complex, has been a blank canvas awaiting restoration for several years.

No photographs of the original interior are known to exist, therefore extensive research is needed to ensure the historical accuracy of the architect's plans. To meet this challenge, the WPS Trustees formed a design committee that researched the post office history, including a hand-written narrative with sketches provided in 1996 by Gertrude Beellan, a former Wantagh Postmistress.

At recent trustee meetings, several details were reviewed including the style of baseboard molding around the bottom of the perimeter walls, the location of a partition dividing the office area from the lobby, the shelf for sorting mail, the number of mail box cubbies, and the selection of paint colors. Some fine points that could not be adequately substantiated with historical records, were voted upon by the trustees.

Drawings will be completed sometime in June and prints will be provided to the society. In turn, the plans will be submitted to the Nassau County Funding Agency and to contractors that the society will invite to bid on the restoration work. 📖

## Another Subdivision in Wantagh?

A local builder seeks variances to build three homes behind two existing homes on a cleared parcel adjacent to the southern property line of the Wantagh Museum grounds. Since no road access is currently available for these proposed dwellings, the plans include the installation of an extended driveway 25' wide and over 200' in length.

At their June 13 meeting, the Town of Hempstead Zoning Board of Appeals adjourned their hearings on DAO Realty Corp. (Cases 1445 & 1446) and Askco Development Corp. (Case 1447) applications until July 11. The developers requested that the ToH Board of Appeals grant a variance or special exception of the Town of Hempstead Building Zone Ordinance as follows: "Variances, subdivision of lot, front width from the street line to front setback line, side yard (case 1445 only), construct dwelling with 2-car garage with insufficient access pursuant to Sec. 280A of the New York State Town Law...." according to the Notice of Filing A Request For A Variance Or Special Exception Of The Town of Hempstead Building Zone Ordinance.

At the June WPS Trustees meeting, David Ogilvie, of Ogilvie Contracting Incorporated, presented the plans for the project and fielded questions from the group. Residents are encouraged to attend the July 11 ToH hearing. Please visit [www.ToH.LI](http://www.ToH.LI) for more information. 📖

## Wantagh Preservation Society

1700 Wantagh Avenue (Museum Location)

PO Box 132 (Mailing Address)

Wantagh, Long Island, New York 11793

516.826.8767

## Upcoming Events:

- ♦ WPS Trustees Meeting at the Wantagh Museum  
July 10, 7:35 PM—9:35 PM
- ♦ Barbershop Chorus Outdoor Concert at the Wantagh Museum  
July 22, 2:00 PM—4:00 PM - admission is free

... and remember, the Wantagh Museum is open on Sundays from  
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM - admission is free.

[museum.wantagh.li](http://museum.wantagh.li)



# Wantagh Preservation Society

## Officers

*President:* Chris Wendt  
*1st Vice President:* Bob Meagher  
*2nd Vice President:* Bob Cook  
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*Treasurer:* Wayne Wagner  
*Curator:* Carol Poulos

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Wayne Wagner  
Elaine Yarris

*The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society. Your comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome!*

Dick MacMillan & Jim Colotti  
*Newsletter Editors*  
[wps@wantagh.li](mailto:wps@wantagh.li)

*A Special Thanks to our friends at*

## Iavarone Brothers

for the donation  
of delicious

## Hot Dogs

at our Spring Yard Sale!



*The Museum  
is now open!*



*stop by and see our  
newly renovated  
exhibits!*

## Mystery of the Young Wantagh Woman

Do you recognize this young woman? She's Miss Wantagh of 1961. Wantagh has been crowning a sophomore or junior High School student as Miss Wantagh, since 1956.

The pageant is about a teen representative with a desire to better her community and be a voice of her peers, while meeting officials from various levels of government.

All other past crowns are identified, yet Miss 1961 remains a mystery. If you were at the crowning of Miss Wantagh in 1961 or know the whereabouts of this Miss Wantagh, please contact Ella Stevens at 409-1645.

Please help solve this Wantagh mystery!





## A Big Thank You

By Carol Poulos, WPS Curator

The trustees of the Wantagh Preservation Society extend a heartfelt thanks to the following individuals for their kinds gifts to the Wantagh Museum.

Donated by Carolyn Olson Campbell of Commack: *One 4x 6 photo of William Adel Meat Market.*

Donated by Mrs. Clara Sugar of Wantagh: *A framed collection of train stamps; Black & white 8x10 photo of LIRR Crossing, looking south; Black & white 8x10 photo of LIRR Crossing, looking north; Black & white 8x10 photo of LIRR Canonball Napeague; Black & white 8x10 photo of Wantagh Train Station circa 1910; Black & white 8x10 photo of Wantagh Train Station, 1953 May 14; Black & white 8x10 photo, LIRR 125th Anniversary, Black & white 8x10 photo, train at Freeport, 1959.*

Donated by Nancy Wiebel of Bellport: *Framed 14x11 photo of Wantagh Canal, 1904.*

Donated by Theodore Wiebel: *The book "A Legacy of Levittown" by Claire T. Ellis, 1965.*

# Thank You

These deeply-appreciated gifts will make wonderful additions to the Museum's collection. If you have any local historical items that you would like to donate, please email [cppoulos@live.com](mailto:cppoulos@live.com) or call 826-4005. 📖



*Singing in four-part "a capela" harmony "The Harmonizers" are performing at the Wantagh Museum*

## What a Group!

By Wayne and Mary Wagner, WPS Trustees

The Friends of the Wantagh Public Library and the Wantagh Preservation Society are co-sponsoring the Long Island Harmonizers, a men's barbershop chorus, on Sunday July 22, at 2:00 PM at the museum grounds. (Just in case, July 29 is set aside for a rain date.)

The Harmonizers are a group of men who sing in four part "a capela" harmony. The concert will be followed by complimentary refreshments and the museum will be open for visiting. Please bring a lawn chair so you can sit, relax and enjoy the show. 📖



**Be a part of the  
Wantagh Preservation Society!**  
*Join your friends and neighbors.  
Scan or click the QR code or fill  
out the coupon below.*



### **We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ New ☐ Renew ☐  
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I'd like to help with:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening & Planting       | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Meeting planning   | <input type="checkbox"/> Publication & Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting museum on a Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                |   |

Check Membership Level: ☐ Individual. \$10 ☐ Family \$20 ☐ Friend \$30 ☐ Patron \$50 ☐ Fellow \$100

**Please Make Checks Payable To: Wantagh Preservation Society PO Box 132 Wantagh, NY 11793**



## Successful Spring Yard Sale!

The Wantagh Preservation Society held the "Spring Yard Sale," on Saturday, May 19th on the grounds of the Wantagh Museum. Merchandise of all sorts, including new sale items, were available. Shoppers from all over Long Island enjoyed the bargains and the cooperative weather! 📖



Coming in the next edition of the Information Window: *A How-To Guide to Land Marking*