

The Information Window

So You Think the Winter Was Harsh?

By Carol Poulos, WPS Curator



Many Long Islanders considered this past 2012/2013 winter to be among the harshest in recent memories. To put things in meteorological perspective, let's take a look back around the turn of the century to see how Wantagh residents coped with the cold season.

Wantagh residents in the past also experienced the misery and inconveniences of the white stuff. In February of 1899 the area was hit with the second blizzard of the season. The local butcher at the time, Stephen Dean, had his shop burglarized and the thieves stole some choice cuts of meat. A florist, Percy W. Behrens, who specialized in carnations, had fifty panes of his greenhouses broken causing some of his plants to freeze.

There were good Samaritans willing to help their neighbors in those days too. William W. Wilson, an ex-constable, placed several barrels of coal in front of his home while the storm was raging for use of the poor. An employee of the Brooklyn Water Works pumping station, William DeMott, was snowed in and had to remain on duty for 48 hours without food. The public school was closed for a week, but the children probably did not mind. There was skating on the local ponds and sleigh rides were frequently organized by clubs at the Wantagh Memorial Church.



The John Davis home when it was located on the northwest corner of Wantagh and Park Avenues. In later years the home was moved to its current location on North Jones Avenue. Notice the home silhouetted behind the tree. That home still stands today and is the Olde Towne Garden gift shop.

For die-hard history buffs, the following is the actual text from the 1899 February 17 edition of the Nassau County Review: *During the blizzard, burglars entered the butcher shop of Stephen Dean and helped themselves to several choice cuts of meat. Ex-Constable William W. Wilson, known for his many kind traits of charity, placed several barrels of coal in front of his home while the storm was raging at the disposal of the poor. The second blizzard of the season visited this village the forepart of the week. P. W. Behrens had a number of fine plants frozen, and about fifty panes of glass were broken out of the greenhouses. A. Barker attempted to drive to the village Monday, but upset in a snow drift, and had to walk to town. William DeMott, employed at the pumping station, was snowed in and had to remain on duty for 48 hours without food. The public school will not be open until next week.*

Now our past winter doesn't seem all that daunting after all! 📖



Membership Reminder

By Mary Wagner, WPS Membership Chairperson

Our membership renewal reminder: thank you for renewing your membership for 2013 in the Wantagh Preservation Society. If you have not yet renewed, now is the time to do so. You can use the membership renewal application you received in the mail or use the one in the information window. Better yet, scan or click the QR code to the right.

Look forward to hearing from you! 📖

Renew or Join now!



Scan or Click!

Wantagh Preservation Society

1700 Wantagh Avenue (Museum Location)
PO Box 132 (Mailing Address)
Wantagh, Long Island, New York 11793

516.826.8767

museum.wantagh.li

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Trustee Meeting, April 2 at 7:30 PM at Wantagh Museum.
- ◆ General Meeting, April 23, 7:30 PM at Wantagh High School, featuring the presentation "Wantagh Schools - Financing of Education" by Chris Wendt. All welcome, free admission, refreshments will be served.
- ◆ Trustee Meeting, May 7 at 7:30 PM at Wantagh Museum.
- ◆ Spring Yard Sale, May 18th, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (rain date: May 19th) please see last page for details.

Wantagh Preservation Society

Officers

President: Bob Meagher
1st Vice President: Karen Chowske
2nd Vice President: Bob Cook
Recording Secretary: Tom Watson
Corresponding Secretary: Elaine Yarris
Treasurer: Wayne Wagner
Curator: Carol Poulos
Newsletter Editor: Jim Colotti

Trustees

Ellen Cook
Joan Mallon
Claire Reisert
Joshua Soren
Mary Wagner
Wayne Wagner
Chris Wendt
Elaine Yarris

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

wps@wantagh.li



*Coming Soon to the Museum Grounds!
New Victorian Lamps.
Stay Tuned!*



*Museum Opens
on
Sundays
starting
April 14*



*More renovations are
underway!*

Cartoon Map of Wantagh



A colorful cartoon map of our hamlet was recently published and distributed. Additional copies are available at Wantagh Chamber events.

Sandy Cleanup and More

By Bob Meagher, WPS President

The first day of spring arrived on Wednesday, March 20th, ending a winter that was not quite as enjoyable as the previous one. Still the sight of spring flowers sprouting up around the train museum grounds can't help but bring a smile to everyone's face and hope the worst of old man winter's cold breathe is finished.

The Society has been busy these past months attempting to restore damage caused by hurricane Sandy. The fury of that storm erased the hard work of Eagle Scout Richie Monaco and troop 96, to clear and widen the path connecting the museum to the bike path that runs along the Wantagh State Parkway. Anyone that has walked in the woods behind the museum can attest to the sad sight of scores of mature trees mowed down like so many blades of grass.

Of course many in Wantagh and other towns on Long Island have suffered terrible hardships to homes and businesses that warrant the attention of our government at the Federal, State and local level. It is going to take some time to restore things to a pre hurricane semblance of normal.

With that in mind we wait patiently for our county and state departments to eventually turn to our needs and clean up the grounds and woods along the foot and bike paths. These paths are a vital part of Wantagh's heritage and furnish an alternate way to get around town without having to dodge cars and trucks.

On another note, we are proceeding with the final phase of the Wantagh Post Office recreation and the placing of a Victorian lamppost along the path to the railroad station. In addition we are evaluating the condition of the railroad tie retaining wall and some metal stress points on the Jamaica parlor car.

Anyone who is interested in assisting with these ongoing projects can get in touch with the WPS at our general meetings on the 4th week of the month at the Wantagh library. 📖



WPS President Bob Meagher receives a check from DAR member Ellen Cook, accompanied by Sandy Leonard, Regent of the Jerusalem Chapter

DAR Donation

By Bob Cook, Second vice President

The Jerusalem Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) supports the preservation of Wantagh's history. Each year, as a special project, the DAR makes a donation to the Wantagh Preservation Society to help fund the restoration of the old Wantagh Post office, circa 1907.

The post office is located on the Wantagh Preservation Society's museum property on Wantagh Avenue, along with the Wantagh Railroad Station, circa 1885 and the 1912 Long Island Railroad parlor car. 📖



***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.*

***** Membership drive is in full swing. Renew your membership today for 2013! *****

We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership!

Name: _____
Street: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: _____ New ☐ Renew ☐
Email: _____

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

"Preservation with a Purpose."

Coming Soon: Spring Yard Sale!

By Bob Cook, Second Vice President


The Wantagh Preservation Society is again holding a "Spring Yard Sale," to be held on Saturday, 2013 May 18th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (rain date is Sunday, May 19th). If you have sale articles but do not wish to rent space, you may donate them to the Preservation Society table. The Spring Yard Sale is held on the grounds of the Wantagh Museum, on the west side of Wantagh Avenue, opposite Emeric Avenue, between Sunrise Highway and the Southern State Parkway. Publicity for the Spring Yard Sale will be carried online, in local newspapers and posters displayed around the community.

All vendors must complete the application below and send it with a check made out to the Wantagh Preservation Society in advance of the event. Vendors who have not pre-registered will no longer be accepted the day of the event.

Vendor's set-up time is from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM, and cars being driven onto the grounds to deliver merchandise must be left in the rented \$35 space. Please note that you will not be able to drive a car onto the museum grounds and then drive out after unloading. All cars must be left in a \$35 space – this is a change from previous events. You must leave your car on the Museum grounds until the end of the sale. Vendors provide their own tables and must remove their unsold items and refuse after the sale. They also agree not to leave before the normal closing hour of 4:00 PM.

The rental fee for one space with car that is approximately ten feet wide is \$35.00 and an additional space is \$25.00 (\$35.00 if an additional car is to be left in a space). Spaces vary in depth and the amount of shade, and will be assigned on a "first come, first served" basis. There are no space reservations in advance. No refunds will be made except for rejections. All vendors must send in their application form and check in advance of the event. Again, vendors who have not pre-registered will no longer be accepted the day of the event.

Merchandise of all sorts, including new sale items, are acceptable. No food or beverage can be sold by vendors. Merchandise must be displayed on tables or on the ground behind the white space markers and within the rented areas. While personal radios are acceptable, there shall be no public address systems.

For more information about the rain date on Sunday, May 19th, call the Yard Sale Chair Person, Elaine Yarris at (516) 785-0761 or email Elaine at elainetybooks@optonline.net. 

2013 "Spring Yard Sale" Application Form

Applications will be accepted as long as space permits. Arrival time is 7:30 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. No food or beverage can be sold by vendors. Vendors must supply their own tables. Vendors must remove their unsold items and refuse. In the event of a rain cancellation on the rain date no refunds will be issued. If you agree with these terms, submit the form below with your check, payable to "Wantagh Preservation Society" and mail to "P.O. Box 132, Wantagh, NY 11793-0132."

Name: (Please print) _____

Address: _____ Town: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Number of \$35 Spaces: _____ Number of \$25 Spaces: _____

E-Mail: _____ (contact for future events)

Amount Enclosed @ \$35.00 per space w/ car and \$25.00 per additional space: _____

I agree to remain until closing time, 4:00 PM Signature: _____