

# INFORMATION WINDOW

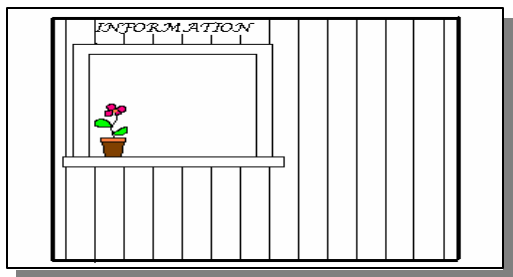
of the

**WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
 Post Office Box 132, Wantagh, New York 11793

Dated material

Change service requested

NON PROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 WANTAGH NY  
 PERMIT No 100



May, 2007

Mailing label

## OFFICERS

President Jeff Saporito  
 1st Vice Pres. Joshua Soren  
 2nd Vice Pres. Ellen Cook  
 Recording Secy Elaine Yarris  
 Corresp. Secy Dick MacMillan  
 Treasurer Harry Strole

## TRUSTEES

Alice Blaustein	Robert Cook	Rose Kamins	Claire Reiser	Alfred Thomson
Rita Coffey	Georgia Cotsonas	Dick MacMillan	Jeffrey Saporito	Sue Wendt
Ellen Cook	Theresa Donahue	Grace MacMillan	Harry Strole	Elaine Yarris
	Mary Ege	Frank McKenna	Joshua Soren	

## MAY 22 MEETING

Our May 22 meeting will be a field trip to the Fireman’s Museum on “Museum Row” in Garden City next to the Cradle of Aviation Museum. We will meet in the parking lot of the Wantagh Library at 7:30 P.M., form car-pools, and drive to the Fireman’s Museum. Those who drive directly (*directions below*) should plan to arrive at the Museum at 8:00 P.M.

We’ll be guided through the Museum’s exhibits, and enjoy a talk by the Museum’s docent. 📖

## FIREMAN’S MUSEUM DIRECTIONS

Take the Meadowbrook Parkway to exit M4, choose the “Coliseum” turnoff, and follow Charles Lindberg Boulevard to the second traffic light, turning right into the free parking Lot. Enter the Museum through the Reckson Center.

For more information, the Museum’s phone number is (516) 572-4177. 📖

## MAGIC SHOW ON AUGUST 14

Tuesday, August 14 is the magic day, with our Magic Show at the Wantagh Museum at 10:00 in the morning, featuring magician Robert McEntee. This is mainly for kids, but grown-ups will have fun, too.

There will be prizes and refreshments for the kids, and a tour through the Museum’s special car, the “Jamaica.” For comfort, bring a blanket or lawn chairs to sit on. If it rains, we’ll move inside. 📖

## SUMMER HIATUS

The Preservation Society takes most of the Summer off. This doesn’t mean there’s no activity, though. We will open our Wantagh Museum every Sunday from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. for visitors, with a host waiting to chat and lead you through the exhibits. Both the museum building and the LIRR observation car, “Jamaica” will be open for visits.

Even the Information Window will be dormant; our next issue will be in September to announce the membership meeting of Tuesday, September 25 at 8:00 P.M. 📖



## Preservation Society Calendar

**Tuesday, May 22:** Membership Field Trip to the Fireman’s Museum, carpools start at 7:30 P.M. from the library parking lot.

**Wednesday, July 4:** Independence Day Parade on Wantagh Avenue, 10:00 A.M.

**Tuesday, August 14:** Magic Show at the Wantagh Museum, 10:00 A.M.

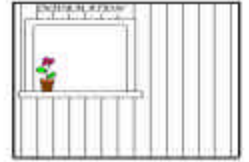
**Tuesday, September 18:** Trustee Meeting in the Wantagh Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M. 📖

# THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Page 2

May 2007



## TO JOIN, OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Addr. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ New  Renewal

Circle one:      Indiv. \$10    Family \$20  
                    Friend \$30    Patron \$50    Fellow \$100

Send to: Wantagh Preservation Society  
P O Box 132, Wantagh, New York 11793

## MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

Check the subscription date on the mailing label on the front side of your Information Window. If you see numbers on the top line ending in "07Jan." or earlier, this means your membership expired in 2007 in January, *or earlier*. Just select a membership level, fill out the form on this page and mail it with your check.

Beginning with the February issue of the Information Window, the expiration date has been coded, "Dues paid to Jan '08" for clarity. 📖

## MUSEUM OPENING FOR SUMMER

The Wantagh Museum has been closed for the Winter season but we opened it on April 22 for our regular Sunday hours of 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. The Museum and the Railroad Car, Jamaica, will be open, and you can peek through the windows of the old Wantagh Post Office, which is now being prepared for internal restoration.

If you would like to volunteer as a host for an afternoon, call Claire Reisert at (516) 785-1309, and she will be glad to pencil you into the schedule. 📖

## THE INFORMATION WINDOW

The *Information Window* is a publication of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published preceding its monthly Membership Meetings. You are invited to submit short articles on items of local historical interest. The Editor is Dick MacMillan, (516) 785-3951. 📖

## WANTAGH SCHOOL BEGINNINGS

In "My Home Town," Robert Huhnken's 1966 description of Wantagh, the beginning of our schools is described. Quite a change from our schools today!

During the 1800s, school law of the State of New York had no provision requiring parents to send their children to school. This changed in 1891 with a new law which charged parents refusing to send children to school with a misdemeanor. Presiding Commissioner of Education James S. Cooley, representing Queens County #2 (now Nassau County), ordered each of the 25 union free school districts in Jamaica, Oyster Bay and Hempstead to appoint district trustees ... Ridgewood was classified as District #26.

After complying with the state law, our school district held its first annual meeting on August 26, 1891, at which three trustees were appointed to the School Board. They were:

Frank C. Young, for a period of three years

Jas. A. Seymour, for a period of two years

Thomas O. Seaman, for a period of two years.

The new board took as its first task to obtain property for erecting the first school house. Mr. James Seaman donated a parcel of his property to the district for a school on the east side of School Street. (School Street was later re-named as Beech Street.) The building cost \$2,700, and was paid for by a bond issue, floated for a period of eight years. Since the village of Ridgewood was re-named Wantagh in 1891, this was the first Wantagh school!

The school must have been unsuitable in some way, because at a school meeting held on June 9, 1909, it was voted to sell the building to the Wantagh Mutual Assistance Association. The building was moved to the south side of Railroad Avenue between Beech Street and Grove Street, where it still stood in 1966. Part of the building served as a post office for many years, and the second floor accommodated the lodge members as their meeting place.

The second school house was erected on the very same site where the original school house had once stood, and for now-obscure reasons, became known as the Seymour Avenue School. It served the community for many years, until it was augmented by the Sunrise Park School, farther south on Beech Street. 📖