

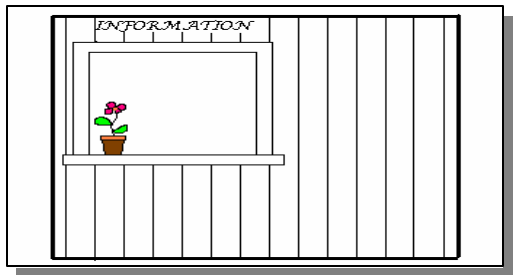
# INFORMATION WINDOW

of the  
**WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
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September, 2007

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## 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	

## SEPTEMBER 25 MEETING

Come to our September meeting to hear Hempstead Town Clerk, Mark Bonilla speaking on the History of the Town of Hempstead, with a little about Wantagh added for local interest.

Refreshments, of course; if you'd like to help, call Theresa Donahue at (516) 221-2152.

## IT WAS A GOOD SUMMER

This has been a good Summer, with lots of sunshine, enough rain to keep things green, and occasional storms to punctuate the changes. By the time this Information Window is printed, though, it will be Fall, and time to get back to actually doing things.

The Society schedule starts with a general membership meeting on September 25, and the Autumn Yard Sale on September 29. In October, the Board of Trustees will elect a slate to fill six Trustee positions, and the Society's officers. (Any member can volunteer or be nominated for these positions.) The new Trustees and Officers will be installed at the Membership Meeting on November 27.

November will be busy with Thanksgiving on the 22nd, and our Membership Meeting on the 27th.

December will have the Chamber of Commerce' Tree Lighting on the Second, and the Society's Carol Sing the following week on the Ninth.

## AUTUMN YARD SALE

Our Autumn Yard Sale is coming up soon! On Saturday, September 29. The vendors will be folks who take advantage of our central location to display and sell all sorts of good things. The Society will help the occasion by providing the food service, rest rooms and museum exhibits that will make it a special day.

There are sure to be tools, pictures, china, pots and pans, clothing, books, dolls, auto parts, garden plants, and maybe even a kitchen sink. If we've missed anything, it's an even bet that some vendor will bring that, too. Be sure to come as soon after 10:00 as you can, and plan to stay til closing time at 4:00.

## Preservation Society Calendar



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

**Tuesday, September 25:** Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Library General Purpose Room. 8:00 P.M.

**Saturday, September 29:** Autumn Yard Sale at the Wantagh Museum, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

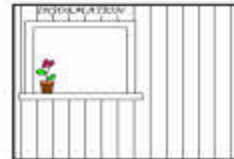


# THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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## 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 above, and mail it with your check.

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


## MUSEUM OPENING FOR SEASON

The Wantagh Museum has been open all Summer with our regular Sunday hours of 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. The Museum and the Railroad Car, Jamaica, are open, and the old Wantagh Post Office, which is now being prepared for internal restoration, It can be checked out just by peeking in the windows.

If you would like to volunteer as a host for one or more Sunday afternoons, call Claire Reisert at (516) 785-1309, and she will be glad to pencil you into the schedule. 

## NOMINATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Elections for Society Trustees and Officers will be held at the Trustee's meeting of November 27.

Four Trustees will be elected as well as a number of replacements for vacant positions. Nominations for all positions in the Society are in order at any time before the meeting – just speak to any Trustee and be sure he (or she) writes it down. 


## WANTAGH AIR BASE

Around Wantagh there are subtle remnants of the activities that made the area well known "in the olden days." Robert Huhnken, author of a pamphlet, "MY HOME TOWN," dated April, 1966, wrote about all sorts of things as part of the celebration leading to the bi-centennial celebration of 1976.

This is his description of Lufberry Field, which leaves its mark in the model plane fields in the Cedar Creek Park, and in the name of *Lufberry Avenue*, which runs east from Wantagh Avenue near the High School to the Seaford-Oyster Bay expressway.

"During World War One, Wantagh had its first military air base, known as Lufbery Field. It was named to honor Major Raoul Lufbery, who during the war had been declared an ace. Early in the war, while serving in France [as a member of the Lafayette Escadrille], he had been forced to bail out of his plane; his parachute failed to open, leading to his fatal death [Robert Hunken's choice of words].

"The field was located south of the Merrick Road [east of the present Wantagh Parkway]. There were approximately 200 military personnel stationed at the field, living in barracks which were located north of the Merrick Road. Their consolidated mess hall was located on the northeast corner of Wantagh Avenue and the Merrick Road.

"There were 12 Curtis Jenneys assigned to the base. These were planes with a maximum speed of 90 miles per hour and a ceiling of 3,000 feet! They were kept in four hangers [at the field], and four more hangers were being constructed when the armistice was signed. The field, no longer of any use, was closed." 

## THE INFORMATION WINDOW

The *Information Window* is a publication of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published preceding its monthly Membership Meetings.

It is available on-line at WANTAGH.LI, along with the Society's event program and all sorts of other good things connected with Wantagh.

You are invited to submit short articles on items of local historical interest. The Editor is Dick MacMillan, (516) 785-3951. 