

The  
**INFORMATION  
 WINDOW**

of the  
 Wantagh Preservation Society  
 PO Box 132, Wantagh, New York 11793

Dated material

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May, 2008

**OFFICERS**

President	Joshua Soren
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Jeff Saporito
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Ellen Cook
Recording Secretary	Chris Wendt
Corresp. Secretary	Robert Cook
Treasurer	Elaine Yarris

**TRUSTEES**

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

**May 27 MEETING**

The May 27 Membership Meeting of the Society will be an "Open House" held in the Society's "Wantagh Museum" on Wantagh Avenue opposite Emeric Avenue at 7:30 P.M.

The meeting will begin with a grand tour of the museum and the parlor car, "Jamaica" and, if daylight and weather permit, the old Wantagh Post Office. The Society's President, Josh Soren, and the Car Committee Chairman, Harry Strole, will conduct the tour.

Back in the Waiting Room of the Museum, there will be a period for questions and answers, followed by a short business session, reporting on the activities of its various committees.

At the end, of course, there will be refreshments prepared in the Station Kitchen for all to enjoy. 📖

**SPRING GARAGE SALE**

The most exciting event this season so far was our Spring Garage Sale, on May 17. It followed the format we have used for a number of years, with many vendors displaying all sorts of wares for us to enjoy, and buy to take home for further enjoyment. The weather was great, and a good time was had by all. 📖

**SUMMER HIATUS**

A quick check of the Calendar below tells you that the next big membership activity is the Fall Yard Sale in September. See you then. 📖

**Preservation Society  
 Calendar**

Tuesday, May 27. Open House at the Wantagh Museum, 7:30 P.M.

Tuesday, June 17. Trustees Meeting in the Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M.

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

Tuesday, August 19. Magic Show, at the Wantagh Museum, 10:00 A.M.

Tuesday, September 16. Trustees Meeting in the Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M.


Tuesday, September 23. Membership Meeting in the Community Room of the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, September 27. Autumn Yard Sale 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. 📖

**TO JOIN, OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP**


Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Addr: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ New  Renew   
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP**

Check the expiration date on the mailing label on the front side of your Information Window. There should be the note, "Dues paid to Jan '09" or later. If not, just select a membership level, fill out the form above, and mail it with your check. 

**MAIL LABEL CORRECTIONS**


The new mail labels used for the first time on last month's Information Window, remarkably enough, had a few errors. Two of our readers kindly phoned in changes, which are now in place.

We also made corrections in the *Dues paid til ...* entries, with the aid of the Society's Corresponding Secretary, Membership Chair and the Treasurer! It is still entirely possible that there are other errors still lurking. Please check your label to make sure that everything is to your liking, and give the editor a ring at (516) 785-3951 to make it better. 

**The INFORMATION WINDOW**

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

It is also available on-line at [www.wantagh.li](http://www.wantagh.li) along with the Society's event program and all sorts of good things connected with Wantagh.

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

**WANTAGH FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Wantagh Fire Department was founded in December of 1899, soon after a vicious fire had destroyed a local lumberyard. Twenty-one dedicated and resourceful men met in Young's Hall (on the SW corner of what are now Railroad Avenue and Beech Streets) to set up a Fire Department and elect officers. By the end of December, by-laws and a certificate of Corporation had been drawn up, and the Corporation papers were filed on January 2, 1900 for the new "Wantagh hook and ladder Company One."

In addition to brush fires and small house fires, the Department has handled a number of larger conflagrations that called for great effort and made significant change in the character of the village.

In 1950 the Wantagh Hotel, located where McDonalds now presides, burned down. The hotel had been a major destination for folks from the city to spend a few days "in the country" where there was good food and the fishing and beaches of the South Shore were easy to reach.

In 1954, an Air Force fighter plane, en-route from Delaware to Massachusetts, made a crash landing on Denver Road, killing the pilot, and the ensuing fire damaged some 30 homes on Denver road, Dover Road and Roxbury Avenue. The homes have been replaced or repaired, but memories of the tragedy still remain.

In 1958, the Wantagh Annex, a hotel and restaurant on the corner of Wantagh and Jerusalem Avenues, burned. Like the Wantagh Hotel, it had been an attraction for visiting city folks. It has been replaced by what is now the Chase Bank.

Also in 1958, the Dauernheim home on Jerusalem Avenue was destroyed, sparking the demise of the Dauernheim Nurseries, a major business in Wantagh. The area is now occupied by the Willowood Condominiums and Shopping Center.

In 1964, the Jones Beach Restaurant, part of the Jones Beach resort planned and built by the legendary Robert Moses, was destroyed. Other eateries took its place, and it seems destined to be replaced by a Donald Trump installation.

Enough disasters. Our Fire Department has been helpful through all of this, and looks forward to years of effort to prevent fires, rather than fight them. But they are still ready! 