

The
**INFORMATION
WINDOW**
of the
Wantagh Preservation Society
PO Box 132, Wantagh, New York
11793

NEXT MEETING MAR 23

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MARCH 23 MEETING

The March 23 General Meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library, at 8:00 P.M. The program will consist of *The Underground Railroad on Long Island*, with speaker Kathleen Velsor. After the talk there will be a refreshment period with informal conversation with the Ms. Velsor.

Following refreshments, there will be a short business meeting for Society members, reporting on plans for the Summer of 2010.

NOT SPRING YET

Yes, but Spring *is* coming, and so is our Preservation Society Spring Yard Sale! This is a great time for us to review all our acquisitions over the last year or so and allocate the duplicates and un-favorites to be sold at the Yard Sale. The sale will be on Saturday, May 15, right on the grounds of the Wantagh Museum. We hope to have the usual crowds of visitors, and to supply them with excitement, lunch and snacks to keep them coming. The fee for a ten-foot selling space is expected to be \$25.00 again this year – cheap!

Flyers advertising the Spring Yard Sale will be sent to our local members and our list of vendors, so be ready to send in the application form and join in the fun.

WPS TRUSTEE HOSPITALIZED

Sue Wendt has reported that her husband, Trustee Chris Wendt, suffered a heart attack on March 4 and is now hospitalized, recuperating from a quadruple heart bypass operation. We wish him a speedy recovery, and send our best wishes to Sue, also a Trustee, who is coping with all the accompanying family cares.



**Preservation Society
Calendar**

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

Tuesday, April 13, 2010: Trustees meeting in the Waiting Room of the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, May 11, 2010: Trustees meeting in the Waiting Room of the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, May 15, 2010: Spring Yard Sale at the Wantagh Museum, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Free admission; vendors fee \$25 per space.

TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Addr: _____


_____ ZIP _____

E-mail: _____

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


Mail to: Wantagh Preservation Society
P O Box 132, WANTAGH, NY 11793

MEMBERSHIP DUES

We're always ready to accept your membership renewal. When you fill out the form, be sure to include your e-mail address, so we can send you your e-copy of the Information Window ahead of the "snail mail" version. If the e-mail method is preferred, we may be able to reduce our postage costs for those who are on the internet. 

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS


After a late start this year, memberships are coming in at a record level. We hope that each of our current members will reach out to neighbors and invite them to join as well.

The advantage of increased membership will permit us to do more in our advocacy for identifying historical landmarks in the community, more and better exhibits in our museum, and more support for our other programs around Wantagh and neighboring communities. 

The INFORMATION WINDOW

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

It is also available on-line at 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, at (516) 785-3951, or e-mail at rvmacm@aol.com. 

RAILROAD SERVICE IN WANTAGH

We think of the Long Island Railroad as the only system serving Long Island, and serving Wantagh in particular. It didn't start out that way, though. The system began in the early nineteenth century with a battle among railroad investors using government grant subsidies then available to try to corner the market for a railroad that would reach from New York to Boston! The Southern Railroad was a late contender for part of the island line, but by the time its construction was begun, the Connecticut shore line was completed.

The Southern Railroad of Long Island was a railroad company chartered in the U.S. state of New York in 1860 and first opened in 1867 as the South Side Railroad, a competitor to the Long Island Rail Road. It was reorganized in 1874 as the Southern Railroad and then leased in 1876 to the LIRR. After another reorganization as the *Brooklyn and Montauk Railroad* in 1879 (immediately after which it was again leased to the LIRR) it was finally merged with the LIRR in 1889.

The main line of the Southern Railroad is now the Montauk Branch of the LIRR from Long Island City to Jamaica, the Atlantic Branch from Jamaica to Valley Stream, and the Montauk Branch again from Valley Stream to Patchogue. [*This is the part that served Wantagh -- or "Ridgewood," as the first station was named.*] The Brooklyn and Montauk extended the line to Eastport while leased to the LIRR. The South Side also owned or leased lines that are now the Bushwick Branch and Far Rockaway Branch, as well as the IND Rockaway Line of the New York City Subway from Far Rockaway to Hammels (abandoned beyond Hammels to Rockaway Park) and an abandoned branch from Valley Stream to Hempstead.

Unfortunately for Southern, engineering advances made it possible to build what is now the New Haven Railroad along the Connecticut shore, and make the competing Long Island railroads unprofitable. This in turn made it possible for the present Long Island Rail Road, ultimately, to become our only rail service provider! 