



# The Information Window

## Haunting Evidence at the Wantagh Museum

*By Karen Chowske, WPS President*

Haunted ... or not? Just before Halloween, the Gotham Paranormal Research Society (GPRS) gave a presentation about the work they do investigating haunted locations in New York and along the East Coast. They shared the stories and legends behind each location, including Lizzie Borden's house in Fall River, Massachusetts. We saw different instruments the GPRS uses to investigate like full spectrum cameras (thus the reason for the pink hue in the photos), audio recorders and meters. They even played actual audio and showed photographic evidence collected during their investigations!

The night ended with the results of their investigation of our Museum, Jamaica and Post Office. I was lucky to have been present during both nights of recording they did at the Wantagh Preservation Society. The GPRS set up recording equipment in each building and left it running while the other buildings were actively being investigated. It seems we may have some spirits in the Museum! What sounds like a child's voice talking to his mother was recorded in the Museum while we were in the Jamaica. We'll never know for sure, but perhaps they waited there long ago, returning home to the city after a weekend of fun at the beach! 📖



*Sensors Placed on the Stove and Counter Inside Museum*



*Sensors Placed on Counter at the Original Wantagh PO*



*Gotham Personnel Monitor Sensors with WPS Member Alison Lorch*

## Autumn Community Yard Sale

*By Elaine Yarris, WPS Trustee*

Mother Nature finally turned off the rain and we were able to have the Autumn Yard Sale on October 17th. Along with a few new vendors, some of our faithful vendors were able to be with us i.e. Robert Wood with his wooden Halloween and Holiday Cutouts, Richard Parker with his colorful array of items and of course Alison Lorch with her Courageous Cats. Our volunteers included Linda who helped at the Trash & Treasures table and Mary who helped in the kitchen. All the volunteers were a tremendous help and made the day a success. 📖



*Shoppers Enjoying the Bargains at the Yard Sale*



*Please See the Last Page for Important Membership Information!*

## 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](http://museum.wantagh.li)

### Family Fun! Save the Date! Joint Us!

*Sunday, December 13, 2-4 PM at the Wantagh Museum*

- ◆ Hot chocolate & cookies
- ◆ Santa will be there, so bring your cameras!
- ◆ Holiday songs by Wantagh High School's Vocal Jazz Ensemble & Symphonic Orchestra students
- ◆ Free Admission - Rain or shine



# Wantagh Preservation Society

## Elected Officers

*President:* Karen Chowske  
*1st Vice President:* Bob Meagher  
*2nd Vice President:* Carol Poulos  
*Recording Secretary:* Wayne Wagner  
*Corresponding Secretary:* Joan Mallon  
*Treasurer:* Tom Watson

## Appointed Officers

*Curator:* Carol Poulos  
*Newsletter Editor:* Jim Colotti

## Trustees

Bob Cook  
Ellen Cook  
Joan Mallon  
Claire Reisert  
Joshua Soren  
Mary Wagner  
Elaine Yarris

*The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published approximately six times each year. Please obtain written permission from the individual authors before using material contained in this publication.*

*We hope you enjoy our newsletter. Your comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome!*

[wps@wantagh.li](mailto:wps@wantagh.li)



*An official Historical Landmark sign was recently installed in front of the Jones-Dengler House at 1051 Wantagh Avenue under Resolution Number 659-2010*



*Museum  
is now closed  
for general viewing,  
but will open again next April.*



*More renovations are  
underway!*

## Sweeney Visit

Last October, Erin King Sweeney, 5th District Council Member, was given a tour of the Wantagh Museum grounds. The visit included a look at the new displays in the museum, the renovations underway on the Jamaica and an excursion to the original Wantagh Post Office. 📖



*Erin King Sweeney (center) with Bob Meagher (left) WPS 1st Vice President and Carol Poulos (right) WPS 2nd Vice President*

## New Retaining Wall

*By Bob Meagher, 1st Vice President*



*After Removal of the Old  
Wooden Wall*



*Installation of the  
Mold*

Lorenz, power washed the station, the railroad car and the recently-opened Post Office, all free of charge. Millennium container service owned by the Allocca family, carted away the tree stumps and construction material at a huge discount. And of course a railing, new walkway and other touches were completed by society members Bob Meagher and Lester Orlick, while also continuing their work on the interior of the Jamaica car.

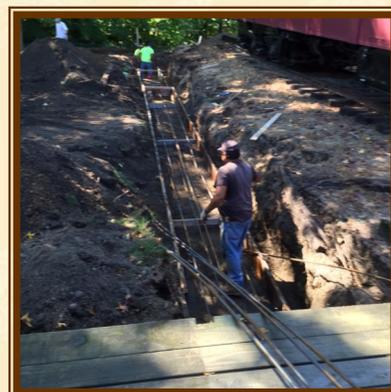
Judging by the crowds at the museum on weekends and the demand for photo shoots by commercial photographers these past two months, the successful completion of this project has paved the way for our 50th anniversary celebration next year. We hope to acquire additional grant funds soon to replace the station roof, put up a new fence and gate and perhaps a new flag pole. 📖

As you drive down Wantagh Avenue past the train museum these days, you can't help but notice a different look to the park itself and a renewed interest in it by the size of the crowds flocking there. For Wantagh Preservation Society, the year 2015 saw a major rehabilitation project, the replacement of the retaining wall surrounding the Jamaica Observation car.

Awarded a grant by Nassau County and using monies from membership dues and yard sales, the Society was able to acquire the services of Nicolino Construction Company of Freeport, to build a 200 linear foot, poured concrete wall. Blessed with two back-to-back weeks of perfect weather in September, this skilled family in the mason business over 50 years, helped us avert a potential disaster of the badly decayed railroad tie retaining wall collapsing and toppling the train car.

It would have been enough to erect the wall, but the Nicolino family was charmed by this jewel of a park and its special history and swept up with civic pride, removed a dozen tree stumps, regraded the grounds and parking area and brought in recycled stone, placed under the car to resemble the stone ballast used along working railroad tracks.

To finish this huge undertaking, the county parks department came in and aerated and reseeded the grounds. Girl scout Daisy troop 3580 planted beautiful chrysanthemums in the expanded garden. Premium Power Washing, owned and operated by Carl



*Laying the Rebar for the  
Foundation Base*



*Completed Retaining Wall*

*“Preservation with a Purpose.”*

## 2016 Membership Drive in Full Swing

*By Mary Wagner, WPS Membership Chairman*

This coming year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Station being moved to the museum grounds, and a big celebration is planned for September 24. Our 2016 membership year begins January 1 and ends December 31.

Funds raised through membership are our main source of income. You are not just joining the Society - you become a supporter of history. You enable the Society to continue its work to educate the public on Wantagh’s past. Funds are also used for the upkeep and restoration of the train. First Vice-President Bob Meagher and volunteer Lester Orlick have worked countless hours to restore the inside of the train. Outside, a steel-reinforced concrete retaining wall has been built to keep the train upright on the tracks.

There were over 1,000 visitors this year to the museum and grounds, including our Sunday Open House, scout and school groups, local officials, and those attending our two yard sales. The restoration of the 1907 Post Office has been completed and has been open for all to visit. In honor of Memorial Day, the Wantagh 6-12 Association, the Wantagh Preservation Society, the Kiwanis Club and Wantagh Key Club sponsored the first annual Field of Honor from May 25 to June 7. This display of fifty flags on the grounds of the Wantagh Museum symbolized the community’s recognition and thanks to our veterans.

**Join or renew your membership now! Be a part of the Wantagh Preservation Society!**



*Join your friends and neighbors. Scan or click the QR code or fill out the form below.*

Please visit our Facebook page to see pictures of places and people in Wantagh’s past. Present members will be receiving an invitation to renew their membership for the 2016 year. In the meantime you may renew your membership by sending in the application in this newsletter, by scanning or clicking the QR code, or by visiting [www.wantagh.li/museum](http://www.wantagh.li/museum).

# Seasons Greetings

### ***We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership for 2016!***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ New  Renew   
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to help with:

- |   |   |   |                                      |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening & Planting       | <input type="checkbox"/> General Meeting Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction             | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting museum on a Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event Planning   | <input type="checkbox"/> Publication & Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                |   |   |                                      |

Check Membership Level:  Individual \$15  Family \$25  Friend \$35  Patron \$50  Fellow \$100

**Please Make Checks Payable To: Wantagh Preservation Society PO Box 132 Wantagh, NY 11793**