

# The Information Window

## Wantagh Museum Featured on News 12

*By Jim Colotti, Editor*

"If you're looking to travel back in time, the Wantagh Museum has your ticket" exclaimed Danielle Campbell, a reporter for News 12 Long Island. She and photojournalist Brian Endres recently featured the Wantagh Museum in an episode for the series "Long Island's Hidden Past". Guided by WPS's Tom Watson, the TV segment highlighted the three structures of the Wantagh Museum; the 1912 LIRR parlor car that once escorted dignitaries across Long Island, a replica of the 1907 Wantagh post office and the 1885 Victorian Train Station, which hosts most of the historical artifacts on display.



*Click or scan the QR code to view the episode of "Long Island's Hidden Past" that featured the Wantagh Museum*

The Hamlet of Wantagh was settled in the mid-1600s, and was first called Jerusalem. The train station was slated for demolition in the 1960s, giving birth to the Wantagh Preservation Society which led the effort to save the building.

The LIRR parlor car (aka "The Jamaica") had all the comforts of home including a dining room, bedrooms, shower and a full-service kitchen with wood-burning stove. To keep passengers cool in the summer months, the parlor car featured an early version of air conditioning where fans swooshed air over blocks of ice.

Across from The Jamaica stands a replica of Wantagh's Original Post Office, a 10 x 12 foot structure built in 1907 that once stood on the corner of Wantagh and Railroad Avenues. (This location is now occupied by Mulcahy's.) At the time of its construction, Wantagh was a rural community populated mostly by farmers. Used until the mid 1920s, the Original Post Office was operated by one person, who sorted mail into slots.

The Wantagh station is typical of what many train stations on LI's South Shore were like in the 1800s. Stepping into the museum is truly like stepping back in time as you are surrounded by historical relics in an original 19th century building. The museum is open Sundays from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, mid April through mid November. You are invited to experience these treasures first hand and see for yourself why Wantagh "has a place in the history books". 



*Recording Secretary Tom Watson shows reporter Danielle Campbell artifacts on display at the Wantagh Museum*

## Membership Drive

*By Mary Wagner, Trustee*

Our membership year for 2017 begins on January 1 and ends on December 31. The money raised through membership is used for our many restoration projects, most recently the original Wantagh post office and the Jamaica Parlor car. It is also used for our many activities and projects during the year. You are not just joining the society - you become a supporter of history by enabling the society to continue in its work to educate residents, especially children, on Wantagh's past. Your continued support by your dues will help make this site a real focal point for our community.

This past September we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the train station being moved to the museum grounds. We plan to have many more celebrations. Please join in the celebration by paying your membership dues for 2017. We also invite you to become an active member of the society. 



*See page 3 on becoming a member!*

## 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)

### Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Trustee Meeting, Tuesday, August 1, 7-9 PM; Trustees and invited guests only
- ◆ Trustee Meeting, Tuesday, September 5, 7-9 PM; Trustees and invited guests only
- ◆ General Meeting, October 24, 7-9 PM, Wantagh Library; All Welcome to this free event; Light refreshments will be served.

# Wantagh Preservation Society

## Elected Officers

*President:* Bob Meagher  
*Vice President:* Claire Reisert  
*Recording Secretary:* Tom Watson  
*Treasurer:* Wayne Wagner

## Appointed Officers

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

## Trustees

Bob Cook  
Ellen Cook  
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)



*The recently restored Jamaica Parlor Car, illuminated at dusk during the Open House event in June*



***Museum is now  
open on  
Sundays  
2 PM - 4 PM***



***More renovations are  
underway!***

## Attention: Professional Photographers

Whether it be spring, summer, fall or winter, the grounds of the Wantagh Museum provide a scenic venue for professional photographers. However, a Photography Permit is required for all professional photographers that use the museum grounds.



The permit fee is only \$50 per hour (an additional fee of \$25 applies for access to the train observation deck). Your fees provide an important source of revenue for our Museum and helps us maintain its beauty that you depend on.

During your photo shoot, the museum grounds remain open to others and there can be no reservations of any particular area. However, residents that visit the museum have always been courteous.



Photography cannot take place before 10 AM or after dusk. Permits are rain or shine.

An approved permit must be presented during the shoot upon request. To apply for a permit, please scan or click the QR code.

Thank you for your support and for helping us maintain the grounds of the Wantagh Museum. 📖

## 61<sup>st</sup> Miss Wantagh Crowned

The ten finalists for this year's 61<sup>st</sup> Miss Wantagh Pageant spent recent weeks visiting local businesses introducing themselves, practicing their speeches and attending rehearsals. To clarify, the Miss Wantagh Pageant is not about beauty but of academic excellence and community service. The Miss Wantagh Court has also been seen throughout the community engaged in activities for young and old residents and everyone in between.



*Samantha Walsh (center) Miss Wantagh 2017 with Erin King Sweeney (right) and Emma Carey (left) Miss Wantagh 2016*

At last June's Pageant, the finalists enlightened a panel of judges on their achievements and aspirations in front of a live audience. The Court also fielded questions and spoke about projects they would undertake if they were selected Miss Wantagh. As an added element, there was a special surprise visit by Adam Ezegejian, an American Idol finalist and Wantagh resident.

Unlike other pageants, the winner was not declared the evening of the pageant. Instead the new Miss Wantagh was crowned at the conclusion of the Independence Day ceremonies on July 4<sup>th</sup> on the steps of the Wantagh Elementary School on Beech Street.

Wantagh can look forward to seeing the ten members of the 2017 Court working together all year on behalf of the community. 📖

## Our Hamlet's Historical Summertime Happenings

*By Carol Poulos, Curator*

120 Years Ago - Summer of 1897: William Wilson, constable, completed an order for 10,000 white and light colored pigeon wings. He received another order for 25,000 gulls. Note: the birds were for millinery use as feathers were popular adornments on women's hats. Also in the news, several local residents purchased bicycles, the latest rage. A big yellow dog was annoying people on Park Avenue and his owner was urged to restrain him. Another dog attacked a Fleischman's yeast cake wagon, tearing a portion its curtain.

110 Years Ago - Summer of 1907: Beach parties were very popular. The Wantagh Mutual Association had a festivity at High Hill Beach. Including members and their families, the group of 200 strong enjoyed games, dancing and a fleet of boats.

85 Years Ago - Summer 1932: The Wantagh Spur Parkway opened to connect the Jones Beach Causeway to Southern State Parkway.

50 Years Ago - Summer of 1967: Wantagh Park Marina opened. 📖

### ***We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership in 2017!***

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

I'd like to help with:

- Gardening & Planting       General Meeting Planning       Construction       Publicity  
 Hosting museum on a Sunday       Special Event Planning       Publication & Newsletter       Restoration  
 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**

*"Preservation with a Purpose."*

## WPS Progress

*By Bob Meagher, President*

The 2017 season officially started on April 23 for the Wantagh Museum. It was the first Sunday afternoon opening of the Museum during a chilly month looking for Spring.

Last year was a show-stopper for the society with a great yard sale, our first museum general meeting on a June night, two Eagle scout projects completed, our gala 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and our holiday open house with the Wantagh Chamber. While this year will be a little more subdued, we have already begun the year with a few events.



*Recent Eagle Scout projects include renovation on the US mailbag catcher (left) and the installation of a billboard (center - in progress, right - completed) that displays an area map and a sign that points hikers to the Wantagh Museum*

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, despite a cloudy, wet morning, we went ahead with our Spring yard sale. Happily, for us the sun came out and so did the people of Wantagh for a busy afternoon of shopping. The women of our society as usual did a wonderful job at the station kitchen feeding the folks out shopping. I think it helped that people needed to get outside after a rainy week.



*The third annual "Field of Honor" ceremony*

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, the Wantagh 6-12 association had their third annual Memorial Day "Field of Honor" on the front grounds of the Wantagh Museum. It was a moving ceremony. Boy scouts from troop 96 performed the color guard duties. As the flag was raised, a scout played taps on a bugle. Then Miss Wantagh and her court led the crowd in singing the national anthem. Following that, the crowd was permitted to hang the memorial banners they bought in memory of loved ones, on one of the 50 American flags arrayed along Wantagh Avenue. It was a fitting tribute to our veterans.

two separate efforts. First, the troop received permission from the New York State Parks Department to clear the museum trail that meets the bicycle path along Wantagh Parkway. They then erected a sign board with a map to the museum. In addition they put up two smaller signs describing native plant in the woods.

This Spring Matt Seaman, of troop 656, completed his Eagle project at the train museum. His project was actually

The second part of the project was cleaning and repainting the US mailbag-catcher next to the railroad crossing sign by the train museum. Matt had a lot of help doing this great project from his fellow scouts. Well Done Boys! 📖