



# The Information Window

## Major 2022 Events at the Museum

*By Tom Watson, Recording Secretary*

This year there were three major events on the museum grounds. The Society's July Antique Car show (highlighted in the Fall Information Window), the Society's Halloween/ Harvest and the Wantagh Chamber's Winter Wonderland.

The Halloween/Harvest event was held on October 28<sup>th</sup> and had over 2000 attendees - mostly children who came to trick or treat on the haunted train. Kids also enjoyed the pumpkin display and pumpkin painting.

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Wonderland event was held on November 26<sup>th</sup>. The event included local vendors, food trucks, entertainment (including Irish step dancing), visit from Santa Claus, Christmas tree lighting and much more.

These events help the Society raise funds - which go towards maintaining the Museum complex. If any member would like to help with the 2023 events please email us at [wantaghmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:wantaghmuseum@gmail.com). 📧



*Visitors Enthusiastically Feed Some of the Animals at the Winter Wonderland*



*One of the Spooky Halloween/Harvest Displays inside the Jamaica*

## Batty Abode

*By Tom Watson, Recording Secretary*

Thomas Lagomarsino (middle of picture below, with tan shirt) of Wantagh's Boy Scout Troop 96 is working towards achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout project included the installation of two bat houses on the Wantagh Museum grounds. As part of the project Thomas raised the funds for the purchase of all the materials needed. Thomas and his Scout buddies installed the bat houses on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The bat houses are mounted on 18 foot steel poles that are firmly installed in concrete. The bat houses were erected close to the perimeter of the woods so that they blend into the natural setting of the grounds. The Wantagh Preservation Society is grateful that Thomas choose to do his project at the Wantagh Museum complex. 📧



*Group Shot of the Lagomarsino Team*



*The Lagomarsino Team in Action Erecting one of the two Bat Houses*

### Wantagh Preservation Society

1700 Wantagh Avenue (Museum Location)

PO Box 132 (Mailing Address)

Wantagh, Long Island, New York 11793

516.826.8767

[www.wantagh.li/museum](http://www.wantagh.li/museum)



*Become a part of history by becoming a WPS member. Scan or click*





# Wantagh Preservation Society

## Elected Officers

President: Beth Obergh  
Vice President: Matt Susco  
Recording Secretary: Tom Watson  
Treasurer: Harold Ball

## Appointed Officers

Co-Curators: Carol Poulos and Paul Sigler  
Membership: Heather Famiglietti  
Newsletter Editor: Jim Colotti

## Trustees

Zack Brauer  
Bob Cook  
Mary Corrigan  
Bob Meagher  
Fred Parola  
Noreen Parola  
Barry Rivadue  
Mary Wagner  
Wayne Wagner  
Elaine Yarris

*The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published approximately three 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*



*Proposal on the Platform - Andrew McCrink pops the question last December at the Wantagh Museum*

*The Wantagh Museum  
will open on Sundays, noon  
to 4 PM, beginning April 16.*



*Please stop in and see  
our new displays of  
local artifacts!*

## 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. 📖



## Remembering the Wantagh Theater

*By Barry Rivadue, Trustee*

Who remembers the Wantagh Theater on Jerusalem Ave? It opened in 1960, and had three owners until it closed in 1989. For me it was my very first movie experience. I saw a matinee reissue of Tom Thumb (1958), possibly the year the theater opened.

For years what impressed me most about the place was its air conditioning which was rather rare back then, especially in households. Entering the theater its impact was immediate. The theater was well designed in that its spacious auditorium had a foyer of hushed, crisply cool darkness, that was the perfect transition between the outside world and the movie screen.

Until at least the 1980s there was still the option of seeing movies at the opulent Radio City Music Hall in Manhattan, but the modest Wantagh theater was my mainstay when growing up. 📖



*The Wantagh Theater (circa 1961) with the horror movie "Mr. Sardonicus" Posted on the Marquee*



*Become a WPS member - scan or click the QR code or mail in the coupon below - thanks!*

## Our 2023 Membership Drive has Begun

*By Tom Watson, Recording Secretary*

We hope that our current members will continue to support the Wantagh Preservation Society and that we also grow our membership with new members. Please consider emailing this Information Window to anyone you think would be interested in supporting the Society.

The Society's motto is "Preservation with a Purpose". Help us preserve Wantagh's history with your membership.

We also invite you to become an active member of the society. Please also let us know if you have any old Wantagh photos, old newspapers or any other historical artifacts. Our contact information is on page 2. Thanks! 📖

### ***We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership in 2023!***

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**



*“Preservation with a Purpose.”*

## Winter News From Years Ago

*Compiled By Carol Poulos, Co-Curator*

### 125 Years Ago

February 1898: David Fussell very kindly plowed paths in the village on a Tuesday, for which the residents extend thanks. George Barker with a party of friends, enjoyed a ride through the village in his large bob-sleigh on a Monday.

The Standard Oil Company's supply wagon from Amityville, became stuck in the mud opposite Young Brothers' store. An extra team of horses was brought into requisition, and after several strong pulls, the wagon was hauled from the mire. The cracker wagon from Charles Baldwin from Baldwins, also became stuck in the mud opposite Verity's barber shop on Monday. As in the case of the oil wagon, an extra team of horses was necessary to extricate the vehicle. The horses were then headed for Seaford when a short distance from here, on the South turnpike, they again became fast in the mud on that thoroughfare. The Young Brothers supplied a team of horses as in the former instance, and soon had the rig free.



*William Garner's Horse Drawn Sleigh, Circa Early 1900's*

### 105 Years Ago

January 1918: School has been closed several days on account of frozen pipes, which also affected the fire house and many residences. All of our readers know of the hardships they or their neighbors have gone through, with the thermometer getting down as low as 13 to 15 below zero, water pipes freezing and then bursting, and in most sections, a shortage of coal. The bay is frozen over solid, even so that it has been possible to walk across the inlet to the "point of the beach." Several have ridden to the beach on bicycles and further east the trip has been made by automobiles.

February 1918: On a Thursday night, a number of our young folks enjoyed a dandy sleigh ride to Hicksville, where refreshments were served and dancing was the order of the evening, after which they returned home. They surely made noise enough with their horses and whistles. Those in the party were Misses Helen Jackson, Ella Morrison, Vera Dean, Florence Box, Miss A. Wienkopp of Brooklyn, Miss Mary and Charles White of Copiague, Everett and Vernon Jeffrey, Charles Schafer, Lester Wiebel, and Ernest Dean.

### 80 Years Ago



*A Snowy Day at William H Valentine's Store on Railroad Avenue*

January 1943: All Wantagh organizations are cooperating in the progress of the Wantagh Community War Service committee, formed to furnish entertainments for service men stationed in and near Wantagh and sponsored by the Wantagh Civilian Mobilization unit. It is planned to hold the entertainments the second Monday night of each month with one organization as the special host for each event. Young women of the community are invited to act as hostesses at the affairs. They must be at least 18 years of age and must register at the office of civilian mobilization in the fire hall, Railroad Avenue, Wantagh, where they will receive identification cards.



*Wantagh Avenue in Winter (circa early 1900's)*

### 65 Years Ago

January 1958: Several hundred parents, students and dignitaries braved chilling winds to attend the cornerstone setting rites at the new 600-pupil Forest Lake School. 📖