

The Information Window

Wantagh Museum's Third Annual Antique Car Show

By Beth Obergh, President

The Wantagh Museum's Third Annual Antique Car Show will take place on Saturday, July 13th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (the Rain Date is Saturday, July 20th). The event will take place at the Wantagh Museum, 1700 Wantagh Avenue and will feature dozens of antique cars from 1970 and older.

Refreshments for sale will include coffee, cookies, hotdogs, water and ice cream. As an added bonus, the Wantagh Museum Complex will be open so you can go inside Wantagh's 1885 Train Station, visit Wantagh's 1907 Post Office and get your free train ticket at the authentic train station both to Board the 1912 Jamaica Parlor Car which will be open from noon to 2:00 PM.



A Very Joyful Group at Last Year's Antique Car Show

There will also be a 50/50 raffle, entertainment, kids crafts and music from noon to 2:00 PM.

The entrance fee is only \$1 for adults 18 and older, while 17 and younger are free

For more information and the form to feature your antique car, scan or click the QR code. 📖



Scan or click the QR Code for more information about the Antique Car Show



Last Year's "Field of Honor" Flags

Field of Honor

A field of American flags will be displayed from May 26 to July 5 on the grounds of the Wantagh Museum to recognize and honor the courageous veterans who have dedicated their lives to protecting our freedom.

To have a ribbon displayed on the flags to honor a member of the military, scan or click the QR code. 📖



Scan or click the QR Code for more information about the Field of Honor

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



*Join Us!
Scan or click
the QR code!*



Wantagh Preservation Society

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Treasurer: Harold Ball

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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



Wantagh Museum is Lit Up in Blue and White Lights to Honor NYPD Officer Jonathan Diller



*The Wantagh Museum
will open again on Sundays
Noon-2 PM in mid-April.*



*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. 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 a volunteer may be present during the photography time. However, residents that visit the museum have always been courteous.

Photography cannot take place before dawn 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. If you have any questions, email wantaghmuseum@gmail.com.

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

Fences, Indians, Wolves, Cattle, Liquor & Taxes

By Matt Susco, Vice President

Are you one of those people who wonders why and how our neighborhoods came to be? Do you take time to “stop and smell the flowers” as much as possible? Our busy, chock full of distraction lifestyle we have in the 21st century makes it hard sometimes.

Such as in the phrase from the Talking Heads 1981 release *Once In A Lifetime*, “And you may ask yourself - How did we get here?”. Were there roads, rules, and regulations already laid out when the first settlers arrived here and met with the original Rockaway, Meroke, and Matinecock tribes of the Hempstead lands?

What was the layout/landscape actually like if you were to go back in time to the mid 1600s in Wantagh, Baldwin, Long Beach, Roosevelt, etc. The first recorded division of land in Hempstead was in 1647 and included 62 freeholders. Most townspeople were happy about the British Crown taking over authority from the Dutch due to Governor Peter Stuyvesant's arrogance (sounds familiar right?). The white settler's relations with their Indian neighbors were mostly amicable. As the population grew, new rules, regulations and codes were necessary to keep law and order. The barrier-free landscape of the Indians could not work with the progressive society of the white settlers. Along with these new regs/codes were a system of fines and time frames.

Fences were a very big deal in the early years of the Town of Hempstead. An order was given on May 2, 1654 instructing all inhabitants of the grazing plains of Hempstead to have a fence built or to have the existing fence in proper order. Parties who were negligent upon inspection received a series of monetary penalties that would cover all hands that worked to construct or repair those fences. All citizens were held responsible for their actions. The population was not very large and one citizen's actions affected their neighbors. The citizens of the Town were not allowed to slack. There were no supermarkets and all homes had cattle and livestock. Three years later in April of 1657, the front yards of the homes which bordered the grazing plains were ordered to be properly fenced to contain pigs.

The open plains used for grazing were now becoming regulated. As the population grew, each household's livestock had to be accounted for, so they could be cared for properly by the Cow Keeper, George Hewlett. It appears that the first civil service laborer position was George. His job title was “Laboure of Kalfe Keeping”. He was paid a salary which was a combination of Wampum, butter, Indian corn, and currency. His job description was laid out very clearly. Basically to stay with, monitor, and water the livestock from dawn till dusk everyday. Any problems were on his shoulders with described penalties. Understandably this was a very serious position of responsibility since the survival of the Town's inhabitants depended on ...



*Scan or click the QR
Code to read the rest
of this article*

We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership in 2024!

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."

Wantagh News From The Past

Compiled By Carol Poulos, Co-Curator

115 Years Ago - 1909

May - New gasoline lights are being installed in Firemen's Hall. A new lighting plant has been installed in the firehouse, which greatly adds to its appearance and utility.....A May party was given by Clara Johnston to which a large number of her friends were invited. Games were played on the lawn around a May pole which was prettily decorated with bunting.

July 9 - Saturday, Sunday and Monday brought over 2,000 people to High Hill Beach. There were a large number of private and excursion boats leaving from Bellmore, Wantagh, Seaford, Massapequa and Amityville. The cottages are all filled. At Wilmarth's, Professor Joseph McNicol is giving an exhibition of his ability as a versatile entertainer. He is excellent as a comedian with new jokes and songs, all of which are of the "clean kind". So many people watched him on Monday that part of the pavilion started to give way under the load. Wilmarth immediately shored it up and no damage was done...July 10, While the Young Brothers were at the beach, a huge fire broke out at their lumber yard in Wantagh. The fire raged for hours and destroyed a great part of their property. The Wantagh firemen were assisted by the departments of Bellmore, Seaford, Amityville and Freeport. Flames swept across the railroad tracks, interrupting traffic for some time and telegraph wires melted.

August - A large number of young people enjoyed a moonlight sail to High Hill Beach...Young Bros. commenced work on rebuilding their lumber yard....Dr. William Rhame purchased a new runabout.

105 Years Ago - 1918

June - Although the weather was unpleasant, the Red Cross Parade from Hempstead to Mineola was well attended by members of the Wantagh Auxiliary. Surgical dressings classes meet Thursday and Friday evenings at the Fire Hall from 7:30 to 10:00.

August 23- There were over 200 soldiers landed at Lufberry Field this week. ..The firemen have opened the fire hall for a reading and writing room for the soldiers. Sept. - There will be a dance in the Parish House Monday evening given by the Good Cheer Club, admission 35 cents, soldiers admitted free.

70 Years Ago - 1954

August 3, 1954 - An Air Force F-84 jet piloted by Capt. William Weiland crashed at supersonic speed and exploded in flames on Denver Road in Wantagh. The pilot was killed in the crash, several persons were hurt and 32 homes were damaged. The impact caused a large crater in the road and debris broke windows, fell through roofs and was scattered up to a half mile away. It was determined that the pilot had stayed at the controls to guide the plane away from the school on Beech Street and that he was a hero. One resident, Frank Snyder, a burn victim of the crash, died of his injuries. Days later, residents gathered near the site for a memorial service. Civic groups established funds for the widows and children of the pilot and Frank Snyder. 📖



Wilmarth's Hotel and Pavilion, High Hill Beach



Camp Lufberry, Merrick Road