



# The Old Village News

Winter 2009

## From the Desk of Mayor Kreitzman



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Great Neck, I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of The Old Village News, and to wish you a happy, healthy and more prosperous new year.

The Board of Trustees has been hard at work on various projects throughout the Village, including road and facilities repairs, public safety enhancements, infrastructure upgrades, sewer combination and much more. We have undertaken these projects with the goal of maintaining Great Neck's financial strength, aesthetic value and well-deserved reputation as a truly wonderful place to live, work, shop and visit.

Community input is critical to our efforts, and I strongly encourage all residents to join us for our regular Board meetings, held every first and third Tuesday of the month at Village Hall, located at 61 Baker Hill Road. I thank the people of Great Neck for their continued cooperation and support, and I look forward to continuing our partnership as we work together for the benefit of our beloved Village.

Sincerely,

Ralph J. Kreitzman  
Mayor

## Board Votes to Combine Sewer Systems



Mayor Ralph Kreitzman signs the sewer combination agreement with the approval of Deputy Mayor Mitchell Beckerman.

During a special public meeting on December 8, 2008, the Board of Trustees of the Village voted to adopt an agreement to combine the Village's sewer system with that of the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation mandated that both the Village and the District upgrade their sewer

treatment plants in order to reduce nitrogen emissions into Long Island Sound. The Village currently provides sewage collection and treatment services to approximately two-thirds of our households and businesses (Hampshire Road and areas west), while the District services the remaining third, as well as other areas.

In an effort to minimize the cost associated with these upgrades, the Board of Trustees had pursued an effort to consolidate our sewer system with the District's system. Since early last year, with the assistance of Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Jon Kaiman and the mayors of the villages serviced by the District, the Board had been aggressively negotiating an agreement that would provide a comparable level of service to all of our residents at a lower cost.

With the approval of this agreement, the Village's plant will be decommissioned, and sewage for the entire Village will be collected by the District and treated at its upgraded facility on East Shore Road. That facility is scheduled to be completed before June 2012 to NYSDEC's mandated specifications. This is a practical, cost-effective solution that will facilitate a seamless transition toward a single sewer system for our Village. Without consolidating sewer services, the Village, as well as the District, would have been required to make major upgrades to their separate facilities, resulting in considerable additional costs.



Village of Great Neck  
61 Baker Hill Road  
Great Neck, NY 11023

**Ralph J. Kreitzman, Mayor**  
Mitchell B. Beckerman, *Deputy Mayor*  
Jeffrey L. Bass, *Trustee*  
Mark D. Birnbaum, *Trustee*  
Edna Guilior-Segal, *Trustee*

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## We Want to Hear From You!

Village Hall, located at 61 Baker Hill Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call us or visit us on the web at [www.GreatNeckVillage.org](http://www.GreatNeckVillage.org) to request records; obtain permit applications and other forms; find important contact numbers, sanitation and recycling schedules and much more.

Clerk-Treasurer (516) 482-0019

Building Department (516) 482-0019

Public Works Department (516) 482-2000

Water Pollution Control Department (516) 482-4393

Village Court (516) 482-0019

Email: [info@GreatNeckVillage.org](mailto:info@GreatNeckVillage.org)

## Great Neck Finances Remain Strong

Despite the harsh economic climate in recent months, Mayor Ralph Kreitzman and the Board of Trustees are proud to announce that the Village of Great Neck's finances continue to be strong as we approach the end of our fiscal year (May 31).

In 2008, before the Village issued its latest bonds, Moody's Investor Services, an independent bond rating agency, assigned its Aa3 rating – which is equivalent to its highest Aaa global rating – based upon the Village's "substantially improved financial position," which reflects three consecutive operating surpluses and its favorable tax base and low debt profile. "Moody's believes that the Village will continue to maintain healthy financial operations... given a history of conservative budgeting of expenditures and a demonstrated commitment to strong reserves," the 2008 report states. Moody's, in issuing its high rating, assumed the Village would be issuing \$20 million in bonds to pay for its sewer plant reconstruction. as noted on page one, that will no longer be the case.

"The Village's commitment to strong and prudent fiscal policies has helped us to control spending while continuing to provide funding for crucial capital improvements," said Mayor Kreitzman. "Maintaining a strong bond rating translates into savings for the Village and its taxpayers, and our Aa3 rating and triple tax-exempt bonds will allow us to access loans for capital projects at lower rates, even in the troubled economic climate we will continue to face in 2009."

Visit [www.GreatNeckVillage.org](http://www.GreatNeckVillage.org) and click on the "Financial Report" link to view the Village's most recent audited financial statements.

## Improved Finances to Support Road Reconstruction and Village Hall Improvements

The Village of Great Neck's high-grade bond rating and improved finances are supporting the Board of Trustees' long-term capital plan for road revitalization, including a 30-year program to rebuild or resurface every road in the Village. During the past two years, approximately \$3.3 million was spent on road reconstruction. Several roads, including Glamford Road, Wimbleton Lane, Bellingham Lane, Brampton Lane, Woodbourne Road, Tuddington Road and Drury Lane, have recently been rebuilt, and many more will follow this year.

In addition to the continuing revitalization of Great Neck's roadways, the Board has used a \$40,000 grant from former New York State Senator Michael Balboni to make several improvements to Village Hall. The building's front driveway has been modified to allow for additional parking spaces for residents who have business at Village Hall, as well as a new walkway from the street to the front door. The new brick work and water-permeable paving are also eco-friendly, constructed in such a way that water will be able to flow back into the soil. The roof has also been replaced at Village Hall, and further necessary repairs and improvements are being undertaken.

The Board of Trustees displays the new walkway and benches in front of Village Hall.



# Public Safety Update

## Village Aims to Slow Down Speeders



Village Trustee and Public Safety Commissioner Mark Birnbaum presents the new laser speed gun to police officers from Nassau County's Sixth Precinct. Pictured (L-R) are Mayor Ralph Kreitzman, Police Officer Robert Browne, Trustee Birnbaum, Sixth Precinct Deputy Commanding Officer Tom Depaola and Police Officer Peter Chuchul

In an effort to reduce excessive speeding, the Village of Great Neck recently purchased a new state-of-the-art laser speed gun for use by the Nassau County police officers who patrol the Village. The laser speed gun is expected to act as a deterrent and improve traffic safety in the Village, especially on Middle Neck Road and East Shore Road.

The Village's Public Safety Committee played a crucial role in securing the laser speed gun for use in the Village. "Our primary goal is to prevent injuries to drivers, passengers and pedestrians," said Village Trustee and Public Safety Commissioner Mark Birnbaum. "Knowing the speed laser gun is being utilized should discourage drivers from speeding. This is one more measure the Village is taking to keep our streets safe for everyone."

The Public Safety Committee addresses traffic and pedestrian safety and home burglary prevention, among other related issues. Committee membership consists of Village residents, the Director of Security for the Great Neck Park District and the head of security for the Great Neck School District, as well as representatives of the Sixth Precinct and the Twon of North Hempstead, among others.

The Village was also recently honored with the AAA New York Silver Award for the 2008 Community Traffic Safety Awards Program, presented in recognition of the Village's outstanding efforts to improve local traffic safety and its tenth consecutive year without a pedestrian fatality.

# Say Hello to a Greener Great Neck

## Village Beautifies Medians Along Middle Neck Road

The Village recently revamped 39 medians along Middle Neck Road, from Hicks Lane to Old Mill Road. Under the guidance of Liz Cossman of Luxe Life, Inc., the Village used all organic materials and procedures to install and maintain new plantings of drought-resistant species that will not obstruct visibility for motorists.

"Ms. Cossman donated a lot of time to personally design the new medians and select plants for the designated area," said Deputy Mayor Mitchell Beckerman. "The plants are site-specific in regard to environmental factors. Her knowledge and advice has been phenomenal. This is another way for us to enhance our downtown area."

"As a fourth generation Cossman in Great Neck, I feel a deep sense of responsibility to civic causes," Ms. Cossman added. "Naturally, when my neighbor and Village Deputy Mayor Mitch Beckerman approached me regarding the design of the islands, I jumped at the opportunity."

Because Great Neck Village was once considered a high-end shopping district with an array of boutiques, restaurants and services, the Village government is proactive in improving this area for the community. The new plantings are not only aesthetically pleasing, but environmentally friendly as well.

These latest renovations are only one step in the process of improving the Village's downtown area. All of the islands have already been rebuilt or repaired, as were the planters on Middle Neck Road. The Village and its Business and Commerce Committee will continue to work with merchants and store owners to improve this original Great Neck business district.



(L-R) Deputy Mayor Mitchell Beckerman; Liz Cossman of Luxe Life, Inc.; Mayor Ralph Kreitzman; Trustee Jeffrey Bass; and Trustee Mark Birnbaum enjoy one of the newly renovated medians along Middle Neck Road.



# Village of Great Neck

Ralph J. Kreitzman, *Mayor* • Mitchell B. Beckerman, *Deputy Mayor*  
Jeffrey L. Bass, *Trustee* • Mark D. Birnbaum, *Trustee* • Edna Guilor-Segal, *Trustee*

## 2009 Sanitation Pickup Schedule

### Monday & Thursday

All residents on the east side of Middle Neck Road, except those scheduled for Tuesday and Friday

### Tuesday & Friday

All residents on the west side of Middle Neck Road, as well as residents on Apple Tree Lane, Gutheil Lane, North Road, Hayden Avenue, Floyd Place, Forest Lane, Franklin Road, Forest Row (#31, #34 and higher), Ellard Avenue and Middle Neck Road (#707 and higher)

### Holiday Collection Schedule

	If your collection day is:	
	Monday/Thursday	Tuesday/Friday
Presidents' Day – Monday, Feb. 16	Tuesday/Thursday	Wednesday/Friday
Memorial Day – Monday, May 25	Tuesday/Thursday	Wednesday/Friday
Independence Day – Saturday, July 4	Monday/Thursday	Tuesday/Friday
Labor Day – Monday, Sept. 7	Tuesday/Thursday	Wednesday/Friday
Columbus Day – Monday, Oct. 12	Tuesday/Thursday	Wednesday/Friday
Veterans Day – Wednesday, Nov. 11	Monday/Thursday	Tuesday/Friday
Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, Nov. 27	Monday/Friday	Tuesday/Saturday
Christmas Day – Friday, Dec. 25	Monday/Thursday	Tuesday/ Saturday

### Recycling Schedule

**Glass, metal and plastic** will be collected every **Wednesday** except for **Veterans Day**; it will be collected that week on **Thursday, November 12**.

**Paper and cardboard** will be collected every **Wednesday** except for weeks including **Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day** and **Veterans Day**. During those weeks, papers will be collected on **Thursdays**.

**Major appliances and e-Waste** (washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, computers, televisions, etc.) will be collected by appointment only, after at least 24 hours notice, by calling **(516) 482-2000**.

### Other Items

**Organic yard waste** will be collected Monday or Tuesday, whichever is your regular collection day.

**Furniture, carpeting, mattresses, wood, metal and tires** will be collected Thursday or Friday, whichever is your regular collection day.

**Please Turn Over for  
Further Important Information**



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## Snow and Ice Alert

Garbage and recyclable collections may be delayed or canceled due to weather conditions.

In the event of snow or ice, a clear path free of ice and snow must be made from the street to the collection point.

Failure to provide a clear path may result in a non-pickup.

All sidewalks must be cleared of ice and snow within 24 hours.

### Do Not Place Garbage Cans, Recycling Bins or Other Items in the Street.

### Your Contractor is Responsible for All Building Debris Resulting From Work Done on Your Property.

**Under no condition** should you place out for collection  
any gasoline, waste oil, medical waste, flammable liquid or toxic substance.

For information on the disposal of these substances, see information on the **2009 S.T.O.P. Program** below.

### Recycling Dos and Don'ts

Do not put newspapers in plastic bags. Put them in paper bags or tie them with twine.  
Rinse all glass, plastic and metal.

<b>Paper and Cardboard</b>	
<b>Recycle</b>	<b>Do Not Recycle</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Newspapers &amp; inserts</li><li>• Magazines &amp; newsletters</li><li>• Catalogues</li><li>• Construction &amp; wrapping paper</li><li>• Index &amp; greeting cards</li><li>• Paperback books</li><li>• Corrugated cardboard only</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pizza boxes</li><li>• Hardcover books</li><li>• Envelopes with plastic windows</li><li>• Cardboard drink containers</li><li>• Telephone books</li><li>• Cereal boxes</li></ul>
<b>Glass, Metal and Plastic</b>	
<b>Recycle</b>	<b>Do Not Recycle</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Empty plastic containers <b>only</b> with <b>number 1</b> or <b>2</b> in the recycle symbol on the container</li><li>• Empty food cans</li><li>• Empty beverage cans</li><li>• Clear &amp; colored glass containers</li><li>• Clean aluminum pans</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Styrofoam products</li><li>• Plastic bags &amp; wrap</li><li>• Paint &amp; solvent containers</li><li>• Aerosol cans</li><li>• Cans contaminated with pesticides or chemicals</li><li>• Mirrors, window &amp; safety glass</li><li>• Light bulbs</li><li>• Ceramics</li><li>• Drinking glasses &amp; broken glass</li></ul>

Thank you to Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel for providing the important recycling information listed above.

## 2009 S.T.O.P. Program

The Town of North Hempstead's S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) program offers residents the opportunity to dispose of their household hazardous waste in an environmentally friendly manner. The next program will take place:

**Sunday, April 18, 2009 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Michael J. Tully Park 1801 Evergreen Avenue, New Hyde Park

For more information, please call the Town of North Hempstead's hotline by dialing 311.

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# Residents to Save Money Through Intermunicipal Cooperation

## Great Neck Village and Park District Sign Pact to Dispose of Recyclables



(L-R) Great Neck Park District Chairman Ivar R. Segalowitz, Park Commissioners Robert A. Lincoln Jr. and Ruth J. Tamarin, Park District Superintendent Neil Marrin, Maintenance Supervisor Robert Wanczowski, Village Superintendent of Public Works Louis Massaro, Trustee Mark Birnbaum, Mayor Ralph Kreitzman, Trustee Jeffrey Bass and Deputy Mayor Mitch Beckerman.

Village of Great Neck Mayor Ralph Kreitzman and the Board of Trustees recently approved an intermunicipal agreement (IMA) with the Great Neck Park District for the Village to collect and manage the disposal of Park District recyclables.

“This agreement will save money for our residents and all other residents of the Park District at no cost to our Village,” stated Mayor Kreitzman. “Additionally, because our Village utilizes our own personnel, we can be certain that recyclables are delivered to the Town of North Hempstead for recycling. This is just another example of how municipalities, cooperatively working together, can benefit their constituents.”

The Village also supplies road salt and sand to the Park District at cost. As a result, the Park District will not need to use its property or build its own storage facilities for these supplies. “I am pleased and grateful that the Park District and the Village have formed an IMA for the purpose of picking up recyclables. This again shows how local government fills the needs of our communities in the most efficient way,” added Great Neck Parks District Chairman Ivar R. Segalowitz.

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## Village Works to Enhance Drainage Systems

The Great Neck peninsula experienced flooding due to unusually heavy rainstorms the past two summers. In response to these storms, Mayor Kreitzman created a committee to address the problem. Headed by Trustee Jeffrey Bass, the committee includes the head of each Village department, the Village’s engineer and the Mayor, as well as residents of areas affected by the flooding.

The issues faced are not easy ones to resolve. Unusual weather and heavy rainstorms are becoming more frequent. Interestingly, not all severe storms create drainage problems. The existing drainage systems are very old – some were built over 70 years ago – and utilize old technology to meet old expectations. The Village’s storm water also travels through pipes and systems owned by the Town of North Hempstead and Nassau County. Some of the affected areas are filled-in swampy areas and bogs that have very poor draining soil. While the Village has adopted laws to address the problem, they only apply to new construction. For example, certain areas of the Village may no longer have basements, and all new construction must include drywells to contain on the property all water that falls on new impervious surfaces. Of course, the fact that storm water lines run under our roads and through back yards make solutions more difficult, as do the costs involved.

The Village, as it repaves or rebuilds its roads, has focused on storm water drainage and has repaired or enhanced the impacted lines and structures. Certain pipes have been relined, and the Village recently purchased its own special video equipment so that inspections can be made at a reasonable cost. Storm water catch basins are routinely cleaned with special rented vacuum trucks.

Of course, our Department of Public Works personnel carefully monitor the weather and clean catch basins and grates whenever storms are predicted. Furthermore, we rented Town sweeper trucks to supplement our own after one recent summer storm caused blankets of leaves and debris to fall on our streets.

The Village has been able to persuade the County to increase the storm drains on East Shore Road and, with the assistance of Nassau County Legislator Judi Bosworth, the flooding at Middle Neck Road, Picadilly Road and Old Mill Road is finally being addressed. Thanks to Legislator Bosworth, the County has issued a request for engineering studies and designs to alleviate that flooding, and has included funds in its capital budget to pay for the work. It would have been many more years without her help.