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The Williston Post

Hometown News for Hometown People

VOLUME IV ISSUE I

JANUARY 2017

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FREE

Local Talent Debuts at Carnegie Hall

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Wheatley High School Celebrates Intercultural Unity

For over two decades, the final day of school before the December recess has been dedicated to a talent showcase, fashion show and luncheon sponsored by the Wheatley High School Intercultural Unity Club (ICU).

Described by some as “the best day of the year,” the ICU assembly is truly a showcase for all types of student talents.

Through music and dance performances, students use the ICU Assembly to celebrate the diverse cultures within the school community as a way of bringing students, teachers



and staff closer together.

After the assembly, students eat food (prepared by school community families) from across many cultures. Leftover food is brought to the INN at the end of the day.

This day has become one of Wheatley’s wonderful traditions. The ICU Advisors, Gail Leibert and Steven Fitzko, worked with the students to bring this day to the Wheatley community.



New Year’s Greetings to Our Friends, Neighbors and Business Associates

With this edition of The Williston Post we are concluding our third year of publication, and it has truly been an honor to provide the residents of the Willistons with “Hometown News for Hometown People”.

This has always been and remains a wonderful place to live and raise a family, and we are confident that it will remain so. This is an involved community, where neighbors help neighbors, and we started The Williston Post to bring back the neighborhood paper that reports all the good news in the Willistons.

We remain committed to delivering a copy of the Williston Post to every home and business in the Williston Park and East Williston zip code, free of charge. In addition, we provide a growing number of out of state former residents with a copy of the paper for a small postage fee, so that they can remain connected with a place which they loved.

We are involved with the business community of the Willistons as business owners, and we see this newspaper as a vehicle to strengthen the relationships between the residents and the local business owners who contribute so much to the fabric of the community.

We are able to bring good news to you every month as a result of the information and wonderful photographs that our readers provide, but also as a result of the generous patronage of our advertisers. We urge our readers to take advantage of the services and the personal touch that local businesses, and particularly our advertisers, provide. A vibrant business community supported by the residents does much to contribute to keeping the Willistons, our Hometown, the great place to live it has always been. We look forward to starting our fourth year with next month’s edition, and we hope that you will enjoy reading our newspaper as much as we enjoy providing it to you.

- The Editorial Staff of the Williston Post

Raymond Haller, Nancy Zolezzi, Frank Oliveri Mark Ryan, and James Daw

The Williston Post

Nancy Zolezzi, President
Raymond Haller, Vice President
James Daw, Jr., Editor
Mark Ryan, Design Director
Frank Oliveri, Advertising & Circulation

CONTACT INFORMATION
326 Hillside Avenue, Williston Park, NY 11596
516-741-8300
Advertising • Frank Oliveri • foliveri@thewillistonpost.com
news@thewillistonpost.com • photos@thewillistonpost.com
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The Wings of Winthrop Ring in the Holidays at Wheatley Hills Golf Club

The Wings of Winthrop University Hospital celebrated the season in style at Wheatley Hills Golf Club in East Williston. Manager Mark Zaino and his staff outdid themselves providing guests with fabulous food and spirits in a beautifully decorated setting.

John Syvertsen and his sax entertained with Christmas favorites, allowing friends to enjoy some year-end merriment.

Thanks to the generosity of our local businesses some fabulous prizes were donated, allowing the Wings to raise funds for the Winthrop University Hospital Auxiliary.



Herricks STEM Club Teams Named Semifinalists for Conrad Spirit Of Innovation Challenge

Three teams from Herricks High School's STEM club have been chosen as semifinalists in the Conrad Spirit of Innovation Challenge, and are now working toward the highly selective finalist title. For this international competition, students work together in teams of 2-5 members to develop solutions to some of the world's most complex problems.

The STEM Club is led by advisor and teacher Danielle Tartaglia and provides opportunities for students in grades 9-12 to explore the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The club's participants think and work innovatively as they review articles, participate in activities and explore job possibilities connected to STEM. They also spend many hours preparing for competitions.

The three teams' projects for the Conrad Challenge have been underway since the start of the school year. Students first brainstormed inventions that they wish existed and narrowed their list down to the ideas that were most practical and best fit for the categories. They wrote essays describing their concepts and designs and how they are unique. They also created investor pitches and videos with guidance from business teachers Liam O'Brien and Claude Comisso.

The team AlwaysLucky, comprised of Alan Chen, Derek Chen, Carrie Hsu and

Janet Hsu, developed a product called Celluwrap, an eco-friendly wrapper made of cellulose.

CircuNation team members Amanda Chiang, Caitlin Chou, Alisa Liu and Eunice Oh designed CirQ, a wristband intended to remedy poor circulation and maintain body temperature.

The JIMMS Co. team was formed by members Santana Ahmen, Jeremy Chiu, Michelle Chiu, Irene Cokro and Mariana Mohsen, and presented a spherical structure known as Stormtrooper 9000 that can minimize the impact of storm conditions.

"I joined [the club] because I wanted to promote the STEM fields," said Janet, a junior with hopes to become an Oncologist. "I like the fact that you can make your own inventions."

"I like that we're all working together and bouncing ideas off each other," said senior Jeremy, an aspiring future dentist. "To hear other ideas is really interesting."

The teams are currently dedicated to developing business plans for their inventions as part of the Conrad Challenge's next steps. If they are chosen as finalists, they will be invited to present at the Innovation Summit, hosted at the Kennedy Space Center.



Herricks High School's STEM Club with Advisor Danielle Tartaglia and Principal Dr. James Ruck.

"Hears" To You: 8 Great Reasons to Put Getting a Hearing Test at the Top of Your "Done" List

By Carolyn M. Genna, AuD, FAAA

Of all the life hacks for better living, taking care of your hearing is among the smartest — and it yields an incredible return on investment. In short, getting a hearing test is worth it.



Hearing loss is stealthy. It's hard to notice at first.

No matter what your age, untreated hearing loss can take its toll. The catch is, hearing loss is stealthy. It's usually hard to notice at first. In fact, it tends to come on so gradually that it tricks you into complacency, then it robs you of more than you realize, sooner than you realize. From pilfering away at your relationships and quality of life, to putting you at risk for other health conditions, untreated hearing loss is a silent thief. And don't think for a minute that you're too young to think about hearing loss — you're not. It's a noisy

world. You're part of it. And the numbers show that hearing loss is becoming more common among younger adults — in their 20s and 30s, so make sure you safeguard your hearing. It's a treasure worth keeping.

To give you an extra incentive, here are eight reasons why you should schedule a hearing test today:

1. It may help your pocketbook. Research shows that middle-aged people with hearing loss have about a third more in health care payments than those without hearing loss.

A study by the Better Hearing Institute (BHI) shows that using hearing aids reduces the risk of income loss by 90 to 100 percent for those with mild-to moderate hearing loss, and from 65 to 77 percent for those with severe to moderate hearing loss. People with untreated hearing loss lost as much as \$30,000 in income annually, the study found.

2. Your mind may benefit. Research shows a link between hearing loss and dementia, leading experts to believe that interventions, like hearing aids, could potentially delay or prevent dementia. Certainly, notable researchers believe that addressing hearing loss may at least help protect cognitive function.

3. It could boost your job performance. Most hearing aid users in the workforce say it has helped their performance on the job. That's right. Getting a hearing test could benefit all those employees (a whopping 30 percent) who suspect they have hearing loss but haven't sought treatment.

4. Life's challenges may not seem so intimidating. Research shows people with hearing loss who use hearing aids are more likely to tackle problems actively. Apparently, hearing your best brings greater confidence.

5. Your zest for life might get zestier. Most people who use hearing aids say it has a positive effect on their relationships. They're more likely to have a strong social network, be optimistic, feel engaged in life, and even get more pleasure in doing things.

6. It could protect you against the blues. Hearing loss is linked to a greater risk of depression in adults, especially 18 to 69-year-olds.



But studies also show that treating hearing loss can boost quality of life. BHI research shows that people with hearing loss who use hearing aids are less likely to feel down, depressed or hopeless.

7. You'll probably be more likely to get the drift. Most people who use hearing aids say it helps their overall ability to communicate effectively in most situations. The majority who bought their hearing aids within the past five years say they're pleased with their ability to hear in the workplace, at home with

family members, in conversations in small and large groups, when watching TV with others, in lecture halls, theaters or concert halls, when riding in a car, and even when trying to follow conversations in the presence of noise.

8. Your heart and health may benefit. Cardiovascular and hearing health are linked. Some experts say the inner ear is so sensitive to blood flow that it's possible that abnormalities in the cardiovascular system could be noted

here earlier than in other less sensitive parts of the body. But it isn't just about your heart. Hearing loss may signal or exacerbate other health conditions as well, including depression, sleep apnea, cognitive decline, and the risk of falling and hospitalization. So do it for your health, do it for your happiness, but by all means schedule a hearing test—today!

Dr. Genna maintains her audiology practice in Williston Park at 99 Hillside Avenue # H, and can be reached by telephone at 516-873-9742.

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Dr. Susan M. Gorman is a smiling woman with dark, shoulder-length hair and bangs. She is wearing a dark top with a leopard-print collar. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.



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Williston Park Sings For A Cure

While it is only the 12th most common cancer in the United States, pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer-related death in both men and women here and experts predict that it will become the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States by 2020.

In 2016 alone more than 53,000 Americans were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and the American Cancer Society predicts 41,000 of them will die of the disease. Because pancreatic cancer is typically diagnosed at an advanced stage, the survival rate is extremely low compared with that of many other cancers. Despite these sobering numbers, research for a cure remains woefully underfunded.

Reagan Stone's father died of pancreatic cancer nearly three years ago. Her family was overwhelmed by the rapid progress of the disease. Even worse was learning how many friends and neighbors in the area had lost loved ones to pancreatic cancer. The answer was a benefit concert called "One Day More, Singing for the Cure," which drew more than 250 attendees and raised more than \$9,000.

Ms. Stone sees the objective of the concert series as changing the number of people who find themselves in the grip of the disease in its advanced stage. This can be done locally through educating people to their risk factors or by boosting the research funds.

Raising funds and awareness with a concert series provides an opportunity to fight a deadly disease and to share an evening out with friends, said Ms. Stone.

This year's concert will take place on Saturday, February 4th at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall at 730 Willis Avenue in Williston Park. Do-



In 2016, local performers raised more than \$9,000 for pancreatic cancer research in "One Day More, Singing for a Cure."

nations for the two-hour production are \$30 per person or \$250 for a table of ten. The evening includes appetizers, beer, wine, and soft drinks.

To attend please make checks payable to: The Lustgarten Foundation and mail them to Reagan Stone, 323 Barwick Blvd., Mineola, New York, 11501. If you cannot attend but would like to support the research effort, a luminaire memorial can be sponsored the night of the event in the name of a loved one for only \$10. For more details, call (516) 734-0026.

Hands for Haiti

Recently, pre-K through second-grade students at Meadow Drive School raised and donated more than \$700 to assist the restoration efforts in hurricane-stricken Haiti.

Motivated by Mineola High School's Instructional Leader Garry Desire, whose family was affected by the hurricane in Haiti, students donated \$1 to put their handprint on a banner that Mr. Desire will take with him to Haiti during his next visit.

The banner, which is approximately 10-feet long, raised money which will directly be used to rebuild roofs on school buildings.

Dubbed Little Hands Helping Haiti, the project reinforced the importance of contributing to a global society.




Photo courtesy of Mineola Union Free School District

It's All About Giving Back....

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"Pete Masterson State Farm Agent"

Christmas at the Community Church of East Williston

As always, the observance of Christmas at the Community Church of East Williston began with Advent, the four weeks of waiting which lead to the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

December 18th, the Fourth Sunday, was marked by a candle lighting service and the annual Christmas concert, which was a huge success, and very well attended and much appreciated by members of the congregation and visitors alike.

The Concert ended, and Christmas week began, with the congregation singing Christmas Carols together.

On Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. the Church once again presented the outdoor living Nativity, followed at 7:30



p.m. by the first Christmas Eve service.

Taking inspiration from Christmas services at Kings College in Cambridge, England, the service began with one young person singing one stanza of "Once in David's Royal City" alone, with the choir joining with the second verse and the entire congregation joining with the 3rd and 4th verses.

The service ended with the congregation singing "Silent Night, Holy Night" and "Away In A Manger" by candle light.

The second service at 11:00 p.m. was in the same venue and allowed all in attendance to enjoy the fellowship and celebration of our Savior's Birth.



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St. Aidans Choir Performs at Christmas

An Appearance At Carnegie Hall

On Monday, December 19th, members of the Angel Choir, Girls Choir and Celestial Choir, accompanied by the Herricks High School Chamber Orchestra and Choir, and members of the Our Lady of Mercy Academy Choir had the privilege to sing at Carnegie Hall.

Ivanov Bubalo, Ms. Reagan Stone and Mrs. Eileen Caulder, the students performed in a Holiday Concert A Call for Global Peace, "One Voice One World". We are so proud of our students for all their hard work, and are equally proud to have had the opportunity to perform with students from Herricks and Our Lady of Mercy. They truly sounded like angels!

The Annual Christmas Concert

The Annual Christmas Concert at St. Aidan's has become a holiday tradition, and with good reason. Each year's performance surpasses that of the year before, and each year the audience is treated to excellent musicianship from all of the performers.

The Concert on December 18th was under the direction of Mr. Dragan Ivanov Bubalo, St. Aidan's Director of

Music, and Assistant Director Ms. Eileen Calder.

The performers included the St. Aidan's Choir, St. Aidan's Bells and Chimes Choir, St. Aidan's Girls Choir, St. Aidan's Women's Ensemble, Tenors Daniel Maimone, Gregory Mercer, Giovanni Vitozzi, Marco Vitozzi, Baritone Brian Goff, Soprano Reagan Stone, and Mezzo-soprano Melissa Escobar.



In addition, the musicians from St. Aidan's were joined by the superb Herricks High School Chamber Orchestra conducted by Ms. Catherine Fish and the equally talented Herricks High School Chamber Choir, conducted by Ms. Louise O'Hanlon.

The program included a moving candlelight processional, accompanied by carols by Palestrina and Lauridsen, as well as the traditional People Look East.

The Bell and Chime Choir performed Ring Around the Rainbow.

The Girls and Women's Choir, and the soloists (accompanied in some cases by the audience) performed carols from around the world.

The Herricks Orchestra performed several selections by Haydn and Leon-



ard Bernstein, and brought the audience to its feet at the conclusion.

The Herricks Choir performed Flower of Beauty by Clements, and I Will Be The Light by Custer.

The entire ensemble concluded with a performance of the modern cantata, Love Transcending, followed by carols performed by the soloists, and a final chorus by the delightful Handbell Choir.

If you weren't able to attend you should be sure to make plans to attend next year's concert, as the perfect way to begin Christmas Week.

Rotary Club of Williston Park Meets at the Williston Townhouse

On Wednesday, December 7, the Williston Park Rotary Club welcomed guest speakers Jill Weber, Commissioner of the Department of Parks for the Town of North Hempstead, and Bonnie Klein, Horticultural Supervisor of the Clark Botanic Garden in Albertson.

Commissioner Weber spoke about all the great programs that are available to the residents of the town of North Hempstead and the capital projects that are going on in the fifty-two town parks.

Bonnie Klein outlined future plans for the new heated greenhouse and what will be happening in 2017 in the Garden. She also reminded the Rotarians (and The Williston Post reminds our readers) that if they were interested in signing up for a garden plot the time to do so will be in early Spring. Consult the Clark Garden Website at <http://clarkbotanic.org> for further information.

The meeting was held at a new venue--the Williston Town House, which can always be counted on for a superb breakfast. Thank you to the Dimas Family for being such gracious hosts. We look forward to



Top, L to R, President Ray Haller, Commissioner Weber, Bonnie Klein & Vice President Frank Oliveri
Bottom, L to R, Commissioner Weber, Bonnie Klein, Louise Schwarzschild, & Mary Cross of CBG Auxiliary



North Hempstead To Offer Free and Discounted Taxi Rides for Residents With Disabilities

The Town of North Hempstead has partnered with local taxi companies to offer free and discounted taxi trips to residents with disabilities. The local law was approved unanimously at the Town Board's December 13 meeting.

This program is an expansion of the Project Independence transportation program which was originally implemented in 2009 to offer seniors discounted or free taxi rides.

Beginning in January 2017, residents with a disability who are 21 and over will be eligible for free taxi rides for grocery shopping trips and discounted taxi rides for medical appointments. These transportation programs are funded in part from the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council New Freedom funds via the New York State Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration.

To be approved, residents with disabilities would provide a copy/picture of an Able-Ride or Access-A-Ride card, or a letter that shows acceptance in one of these services. Able Ride provides accessible service for destinations in Long Island, and Access-A-Ride provides service to New York City destinations.

Once registered, residents may reserve their taxi trip by calling 311 or (516) 869-6311 at least one day in advance.

Please note that residents looking to utilize this service must be able to ride in a taxi, and if traveling with a wheelchair or walker, it must be able to fold and fit into the trunk. Please note that the Town will not be conducting their own medical review or certification process.

The Disability Advisory Committee was created this year by Supervisor Bosworth and the Town Board to advise the Town on issues pertaining to those with disabilities and is part of the Town of North Hempstead's ongoing program of assisting older and disabled Town residents to remain in their homes in the community.

The taxi ride program is just one of the initiatives to come out of the work of the Disability Advisory Committee.



Above, Kevin Greenstein speaks with North Hempstead Town Supervisor Judi Bosworth about the new taxi service for individuals with disabilities. Kevin's father, Larry, is a member of the Town's Disabilities Advisory Committee. Below, Members of the Disabilities Advisory Committee at a recent meeting.



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A Life Well Lived

By **Rosemary Graziano**

Deacon Francis (Frank) Love was called home recently and, while we will miss him terribly, we are also able to smile at the memory of him.

Frank was a reflection of his name, he was a man who truly exemplified love. A deacon friend once called Frank “The Deacon Of Love,” and how very true it was!

Frank was born April 10, 1942 in New York City and grew up in Queens, attending Immaculate Conception Grammar School, Holy Cross High School and Queens College. He was proud to be a veteran of the United States Navy, where he was assigned to his ship’s boiler room. He learned his trade in the Navy, and eventually became a chief operating engineer.

To Frank his job was more than just a job but a calling. He found great joy in understanding the details of how things worked. He shared his knowledge as a mentor in an apprentice program. Even after retirement Frank could be found tinkering on projects. Love for his work was abundant!

Frank found the love of his life, Mary Jo, and married in 1969. They had three boys, Francis, Christopher, and Robert, and three daughters in law, Monica, Karen and Ashley. Frank and Mary Jo have five grandchildren, Katie, Gabby, Stephen, Peter, and Evangeline. Frank enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, taking them fishing, cooking for them and attending their activities. Love for his family was abundant!

In May 2001 Frank was ordained a Deacon and assigned to his parish, St. Aidan. Throughout his ministry Frank encountered many people, and he always offered them a big hello and a smile that told them he cared about them. When he asked people that common question, “how are you,” he would emphasize the “you” because he truly wanted to know what was happening in their lives. Frank took the time to listen sincerely to the answer and become involved in an active dialogue with the person he was

speaking to.

He was a man of trust and a confidante. Frank never met a stranger. Whether it be a parishioner, shop-keeper or server, Frank would take the

By sharing bible stories and creating faith-based games, Frank made the Word of God real. Like any good teacher, Frank recognized how much he learned from the faith of the chil-

of a loved one. Frank found the right words to comfort and ease the heart-felt pain of those who mourned. He fulfilled the promise of the Beatitude, “Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Love for those who were in need of compassion was abundant!

Being a deacon allowed Frank many opportunities to celebrate special occasions such as weddings and baptisms with families. He gladly extended himself to the couples and parents and all in attendance. The festivi-

ties were joyful and of course prayerful – memories were created for all. Love for those who were joyful was abundant!

Frank loved to travel. His many excursions with Mary Jo and his children took him through the United States, Mexico, Central America, Canada, Europe, Australia, and the Middle East. He traveled on pilgrimage with parishioners throughout Europe and the Middle East as well. Frank beamed with pride and devotion to his God as he assisted Msgr. Bob Hayden at mass in some of the greatest cathedrals in the world. Love for his God and the world was abundant!

Many, many people had unique relationships with Frank and claimed him as their own. If you knew Frank, you knew that he loved you.

Yes, Frank was LOVE!



The Wings of Winthrop Mother Daughter Brunch Sunday, March 5, 2017

.....

Celebrate an Enchanting Afternoon!! at The Inn at New Hyde Park 11am-3pm

*It's a celebration for all women!
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*The money raised will support our exciting pledge;
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Please note any table preferences on the back of this reservation form*

Wildlife Forensics in Mineola



Living Environment classes at Mineola high school were recently visited by Environmental Educators from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for a program called Wildlife Forensics.

As part of a free presentation offered by the Department, the Department's representatives brought animal skulls and bones and used them to teach students how to read the remains to determine the species.

Appropriately, all of the animal bones are native to New York and the presentation itself tied in to the students' unit on ecology.

Photos courtesy of Mineola Union Free School District.

Caring for Our Pets

Facts About Toxoplasmosis and Its Relevance To Human Disease (Especially Pregnant Women)

By **Victor LaGinestra, D.V.M.**

Toxoplasma gondii is a protozoan parasite that is spread by cats and other felids. Most cats are infected after eating small animals (mammals, birds), which carry the cysts in their tissue.

After ingestion, cats will shed cysts for 1-2 weeks and then will almost never shed them again. The cysts then become infective after about two days in the environment.

Only if the cat is shedding cysts is there a risk that humans will acquire the disease from direct contact with the cat's feces or its environment. Most outdoor cats become infected early in life and approximately one third of all cats have been infected.

If a human being ingests Toxoplasma cysts through cat feces, undercooked meat, poorly cleaned vegetables, soil (gardening), shellfish or contaminated water, it will typically produce no clinical signs or mild flu-like signs.

Approximately 25% of U.S. residents have already been exposed to Toxoplasmosis and mostly through foodborne exposure.

Toxoplasmosis can be a devastating illness in pregnant women (affecting the fetus) and in immunocompromised individuals.

If a pregnant woman contracts Toxoplasmosis before pregnancy, she has an immunity that prevents passing the infection to the fetus.

If a woman is infected for the first time during her pregnancy, the protozoan can cause hydrocephalus, blindness, mental retardation, epilepsy, and even death.

Toxoplasma is also a serious problem in immunocompromised individuals such as HIV patients, people undergoing chemotherapy, or patients undergoing bone marrow transplants. In these individuals there is a reactivation of Toxoplas-

ma that they were exposed to previously. It will usually affect the brain causing Toxoplasma encephalitis.

When herbivores ingest Toxoplasma cysts, the organism encysts in the animal's muscle tissue. Approximately 25% of lamb and pork samples contain Toxoplasma cysts. 50% of human toxoplasmosis cases come from undercooked meat.

While the risks of Toxoplasma are relatively low, we must take certain precautions:

- Cook meat well
- Peel or wash fruits and vegetables
- Wear gloves when doing yard work
- Cook shellfish well
- Wash hands after contact with raw meat

If you have a cat there are preventative measures:

- Keep cat indoors
- Feed commercial diets and not raw meat
- Keep pests (ex: mice) under control
- Have a non-pregnant person clean litter box daily (remember cysts are not infective until about 48 hours)
- Keep high risk individuals away from litter boxes and sinks used for cleaning litter boxes
- Wash litter boxes periodically in hot water
- Dispose of litter in sealed bags as municipal waste, not as compost or spread used litter outside
- Clip perianal hair in long haired cats
- During pregnancy do not get a new cat

Remember, the risk of acquiring Toxoplasma from a pet cat is low and can be reduced to negligible levels through basic cat management and hygiene practices.




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A Thanksgiving Thank You From the Alford Family

It has been our pleasure over the years to report to you the wonderful good work that this extraordinarily generous family performs every year at Thanksgiving, when they provide Thanksgiving dinner but, more importantly, Thanksgiving companionship to so many of our neighbors who would otherwise have to do without these necessary joys.

In response to this thank you letter from the Alford's, our only response can be a heartfelt thank you, in return, both to them and to our community because, as always, the Willistons came through, joining so many others in donating cooked food, money and time to assist in this project.



To the Editor:

To all those who roasted a turkey or donated one, made desserts, baked breads, donated drinks, gave money, made a card, decorated a bag, helped us pack or helped us deliver...we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your help in making our Thanksgiving delivery project a success!

With the help of so many, we provided the fixings for 31 families in need to make their own meal. It included over 15 pounds of fresh produce, a frozen turkey, and all the side ingredients.

A sit-down dinner for 50 senior citizens was hosted on Thanksgiving afternoon at Mary's Manor in Inwood.

247 meals were delivered throughout Nassau County by 37 cars on Thanksgiving afternoon to homebound seniors, each

accompanied by a visit.

36 turkeys were cooked for us in other people's ovens! Over 750 cards, letters, and drawings were made by the students at Cathedral Nursery School in Garden City, Unqua Elementary in Massapequa, and the Wantagh Middle School. 200 bags were



decorated by the art classes at Stewart School in Garden City.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support from the following groups: Rotary Club of Williston Park, Garden City Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Kiwanis Club of County Seat, the Mineola - Garden City Rotary Club, Grace International Assembly of God Church, Restaurant Depot, Garden City Special Police, Garden City High School and Middle School Sunshine Funds, and Cathedral Nursery School. A special thank you goes to Robert Auricchio, whose generous donation of fresh produce made the meals extra special.

We are honored to coordinate this program that only continues because of your generous hearts. Have a wonderful holiday season!

The Alford Family
John, Melinda, Amelie, Courtney, Meghan, Peter, and Tim

Williston Park Florist

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Williston Park Public Library News

By **Donna McKenna, Director**

From the Director:

The library will be closed on Monday, January 16, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

We are not accepting donations until further notice. If you do have books to donate, please contact The Book Fairies, a wonderful non-profit organization in Freeport. www.thebookfairies.org.

Adult Programs:

Zumba—Saturdays—January 14 & 28; February 4, 11, 18 & 25; March 11 & 17 in the Assembly Room of Village Hall. There is a \$40 fee due at time of registration. Please wear sneakers and bring a water bottle. Sign up at the Circulation Desk.

Reiki—Tuesdays—January 17 & 31—6:30pm in the library. There is a \$10 charge per person. Sign up at the Circulation Desk.

Knitting Circle—Thursdays—January 12 & 26—11am in the Assembly Room of Village Hall.

Property Assessment Grievance Workshop—Tuesday—January 24—6:45pm in the Assembly Room of Village Hall.

Ceramics—Tuesday—January 24—6:30pm in the Library. There is a \$20 materials fee due at registration. Sign up at the Circulation Desk.

Book Discussion—Wednesday--January 25—7pm in the Assembly Room of Village. Copies of *The Martian* are available at the Circulation Desk.

Author Appearance—Thursday—February 9, 2017—7pm in the Assembly Room of Village Hall. Bestselling author Laura Schroff is returning to the library to discuss her new book, *Angels on Earth: Inspiring Stories of Fate, Friendship and the Power of Connections*. Copies will be available for purchase.

Children's Programs:

Winter Reading Club Kickoff—Saturday—January 7—11am. All children are welcome to attend this 6-week reading club. The theme is “Catch a Dragon by the Tale”

Movies—Saturdays—January 7 & 21; February 4—11am in the Library.

Tiny Tykes—Wednesdays—10:-15-11:15 or 11:30-12:30 in the Assembly Room of Village Hall. Children ages 1 ½-5 yrs old are welcome to attend. There is a \$45 fee due at registration.

Zumba for Kids—Thursdays—January 19 & 26; February 2 & 9—4:45-5:30 in the Assembly Room of Village Hall for kids 7-12 years old. Please wear sneakers and bring a water bottle.

Holiday Celebrations at TR's Great American

The holidays were in full swing at TR's Great American Restaurant.

Owners and Williston Park natives, sisters Patti Lettiere Agro and Donna Lettiere Sandler recently hosted a holiday party for their staff and loyal customers.

The annual event is an opportunity for Patti and Donna to thank their dedicated staff and patrons for their continued support. Their only request is everyone bring a gift card which they donate to St. Aidan's Parish Outreach to help those in need during the holiday season.

This year they raised over \$1100 for the families that St. Aidan's assists in our community. The contributions helped make local families holidays a little brighter through the TR's family's generosity.

A longtime local favorite, TR's is a mainstay for many in the area and Patti and Donna are happy to give back to the Willistons community which they proudly serve.



Searingtown Chamber Club Performs at Community Holiday Festivals

On Dec. 4, the Searingtown Chamber Club treated the community to several special holiday performances. More than 70 student musicians from Searingtown Elementary School performed at the St. Aidan's Annual Festival of Trees and a few hours later at the Williston Park Tree Lighting ceremony sponsored by the Village and Fire Department. The audience delighted in the sounds of the season while sipping hot

chocolate as they awaited the arrival of Santa. The Orchestra Chamber and Band Chamber groups took turns in the spotlight providing an exciting array of seasonal pieces. The 8, 9 and 10-year olds have spent the past several months preparing more than 20 pieces geared to the holidays. Their hard work and musical successes also resulted in additional invitations including performances at the

holiday luncheons for the seniors at the Herricks Community Center. With the start of the new year, the Searingtown Orchestra and Band Chamber clubs will combine forces to create a full symphony orchestra, a rare occurrence on the elementary level. This Searingtown Symphony will then prepare a grand spring concert featuring the works of Copland, Dvorak and the Eagles. The Searingtown Chamber Club

was founded by Andrea Somma and is currently advised by Ms. Somma and Mr. Stevens. Their goal is to provide further musical enrichment through more challenging and diverse works and additional performances and to develop the importance of community building through the musical arts. The Club is open to any Searingtown student who is presently a member of the Searingtown Instrumental Music Program.



Mineola School District News

Mindfulness in Mineola

Jeanine Gallina, an art teacher in the Mineola Union Free School District, has brought mindfulness into the Jackson Avenue School and Mineola Middle School buildings. As a certified yoga instructor, Ms. Gallina has been hosting weekly after-school yoga sessions in each of the schools for interested students. Response has been overwhelming and the third- through seventh-graders have been enjoying the yoga classes, which offer increased focus, more mindfulness and reduced stress as some of the many benefits.

Hampton Street School Students Create Music Appreciation Mural

Jaclyn Altman's art students at Hampton Street School in the Mineola Union Free School District have been working on a music appreciation mural to beautify their school. Created in conjunction with visiting artist John DiNaro, kindergarten through second-graders each painted a section of the large mural. Featuring bold and bright colors to celebrate all musical instruments, the art is being featured on the second floor of the building.

Music From Cardboard

As part of the sixth-grade project-based learning at Mineola Middle School, students created string instruments using old cardboard and other recyclable materials. Under the guidance of art teacher Andrea Antonelli, they created these guitars or violins, as a fun construction/engineering project that incorporated imaginative play and problem-solving. To bring the artwork to life, students used conductive paint, along with sound clips on their iPads to actually make the instruments play!



Photos courtesy of Mineola Union Free School District

Clark Botanic Garden Auxiliary Holiday Party

The members of the Clark Botanic Garden Auxiliary held their annual Holiday Party with family and friends at the Swan Club, in Roslyn, on Wednesday, December 7, 2016.

The members celebrated both the Holiday Season and a year which saw many improvements at the Garden as well.

Among those present at the event were Jill Weber, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for the Town of North Hempstead and Bonnie L. Klein, Supervisor of the Clark Botanic Garden.

Many thanks go to Auxiliary members Elaine Stark, Jeanne Siarkowicz, and Jean Weissman for organizing the lovely evening.



Above, Clark Botanic Garden Auxiliary President Louise Schwarzchild

Last Walk on the Block Reunion

Ron Baumbach, the author of Last Walk on the Block, reports that, as a result of some friends returning to Long Island from over the holidays, he and his wife hosted a reunion for the “Kids on the Block” from Houston Avenue and their spouses.

The party was such a success that plans are in the works for a much larger reunion at a restaurant in Williston Park with ‘kids’ from Texas, Florida and Maryland also planning to join in the fun later this year.



L to R, Jerry Baumbach, Ron Baumbach, Jim Gallagher, Jim McIntyre, Monica Thomas, Ric DiVeglio, Steve Gaherty and Ken Gaherty.

Winter Services at Resurrection Church

Bloom In Peace At Resurrection Church

Bloom in Peace. Gardens give us metaphors for our day-to-day experiences. Join us for an hour of reflecting on living (or not) our most important values, the “weeds” and “pests” that can challenge us, the “fertilizer” that ultimately helps us, and the joy of blooming.

Listening is affirming, sharing is optional, and simply being present is transformational in this confidential conversation.

Celtic Mini Mass Every Sunday Evening at 5:30 p.m.

Give yourself a spiritual “reboot” with candlelight, prayers that bring us into the mystery of a power greater than ourselves, silence, forgiveness, and joy. Come as you are at 5:30, go in peace at 6.

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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