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# *The Williston Post*

Hometown News for Hometown People

VOLUME III ISSUE XII      DECEMBER 2016      TheWillistonPost.com      FREE



# Santa Drops In On The Willistons

Story Pg. 16



**Roughing It  
With The  
Girl Scouts**  
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Ringing**  
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**It's the  
Season for  
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# East Williston Girl Scouts Enjoy The Great Outdoors

Girl Scout Troops from East Williston recently spent a crisp late fall weekend enjoying the great outdoors.

Two Junior Girl Scout troops, 1298 (4th grade) and 1825 (5th grade) went to East Valley Ranch. There the older troop and half of the 4th grade troop, and their moms slept out in yurts without electricity or running water – quite an experience.

For many it was the first time roughing it. All the girls had the opportunity to learn about horse back riding and take some horses out on a



trail ride.

They also hiked, learned survival skills, made candles, participated in a low ropes program and took a hay ride over to a nearby farm where they chased chickens, tasted some fall blackberries and kale, hung out with some turkeys and goats and other animals.

The weekend was a fantastic experience for all and an opportunity to take full advantage of the outdoor opportunities available to our local Girl Scouts in the Fall.



# A Brief Editorial Note

As this is being written, at the end of Thanksgiving weekend, we had occasion to take part in Small Business Saturday. Chambers of Commerce and small businesses all over the country served as “Neighborhood Champions,” encouraging local people to support their local shops and businesses. While this is a wonderful idea, the thought occurred to us that, why stop at one Saturday? Why not make every Saturday, indeed every shopping day, a “Local Small Business First” day?

Sure it’s convenient to go on line and shop with Amazon, and someday you may even get your package delivered by drone. But, no criticism intended, is Amazon going to sponsor your kids’ Little League team? We’re sure he would if he lived here, but is Amazon’s president going to buy Girl Scout cookies from your daughter, or a Christmas wreath from your local Boy Scout troop? Of course not, but the owners of your local businesses certainly will, and do.

The Willistons have a lot to offer and our local businesses provide excellent service and excellent value. It makes sense to patronize a local hardware store, clothing store, tile store or gift shop. Buy your flowers from somebody who actually says hello to you when you walk in, rather than from a website.

Support the small businesses that do so much to support our community--not just one Saturday a year—make them your first stop. Every time.

## The Williston Post

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



## The Williston Post

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# Winter Clothing Drive by Tzu Chi Foundation

By **Pauline Chun**

On December 3, the Tzu Chi Foundation (Long Island Branch) presented the 16th Winter Clothes Give Away Event at St. Anne's Church at Brentwood, New York.

During the cold months of winter, winter clothes provide a great deal of relief to the less privileged families, and to homeless neighbors after being out on the streets all day.

In response, every year, Tzu Chi volunteers launch the Winter Clothes Give Away Event before the weather gets cold. We know that the winter season is particularly long and difficult for those who must do without warm clothing.

This year we were fortunate to collect many donations of new underwear, socks, and new warm winter jackets and blankets for distribution, in addition to an abundant supply of gently used clothes.

Starting in October, the Tzu Chi Youth Group kicked off the event by making posters for the Clothes Drive and posted them at the office in East Williston as well as Tzu Chi Academy (Sunday Chinese school). Word spread fast among the volunteers about the need for warm outerwear especially coats, jackets, hats, gloves and scarves.

In November, volunteers ranging in age from 10 to 80 helped to collect, fold, sort and pack all the clothes in bags while others organized our pro-

cedures for a smooth distribution day.

All worked with the same simple belief—that they were preparing a warm winter for people who were like a family to them.

On the day of distribution, over fifty volunteers helped in the event. Many people from the nearby communities came to pick up the clothes that meet their needs.

They were thankful to the generosity of the donors, and the efforts of the volunteers who helped them find the right size and type of clothing that they needed.

Ana Reyes and Kathy Fella, who have distributed food and clothes to the needy in Huntington Station every Sunday for the past five years, came to pick up clothing in behalf of the needy, too. They said they have been in this event for many years, and they were impressed by the generosity and kindness of Tzu Chi volunteers. As they



expressed their need for assistance, Tzu Chi director Freeman Su promised to evaluate their Huntington distribution effort, and offered help without hesitation.

Retired social worker Juliette Eason said this was the second time to see Tzu Chi volunteers in distribution

effort, she was happy with Tzu Chi's direct giving and person to person interaction in the Clothing Drive. She assisted as well as a Spanish speaking translator throughout the day.

Her friend Andrea Chandra was also a volunteer in the church soup kitchen on that day. She was touched by the distribution effort of Tzu Chi volunteers who handed the new blanket with a bow to the receivers, and was impressed by the volunteers' effort in respecting and upholding the dignity of the receivers throughout the event.

During the actual distribution of the clothing and blankets the Tzu Chi youth asked for donations by holding up a bamboo coin bank. Many clothing recipients gladly put in their own money to help others and in that moment, they turned themselves into givers who were happy to donate and let love circulate in our community.



# Beyond the Garden Gates

By **Bonnie Lynn Klein**

*Horticulturist for the Town of North Hempstead*

Clark Botanic Garden is what most visitors call the 'jewel' of the Town of North Hempstead, a hidden treasure amidst the suburban sprawl of northwest Long Island. Located just steps away from the Albertson branch of the LIRR, the 12-acre paradise is packed with collections of plants comprised of roses, lilacs, iris, daylilies, conifers, rockery, peonies, hollies, rhododendrons, and the trees.

In the beginning of the season the entry walk is adorned with over 2000 spring bulbs, mostly tulips, but look for the new alliums, daffodils and grape hyacinth in early 2017. Then a quick change in late spring turns the entry into a tropical paradise overflowing with All-America Selection annuals, a display with educational



value for annuals in your home landscape. Behind the annual display is the Family Community Garden with beds available for residents of the town for planting vegetables and flowers to take home and enjoy. The beds sell out extremely fast in early spring so check the Town's website for the registration dates.

Summer is full of color and wildlife everywhere in the Garden. The ponds have resident turtles who, on warm days, sunbathe on floating logs. There are three ponds connected by running streams. All the water comes from a natural well located at the top of the property. The summer Tuesday night concerts in the garden are magical and free.

This year's addition to Clark was the Rain Garden filled with native perennial plants and shrubs. These plants will work to absorb and filter the storm waters while beautifying the Clark House and providing nectar for our beneficial friends—bees and hummingbirds. All plants are labeled for your interests. Classes for Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels and Composting are available in season, through the Town. Visit the Town website please for registration dates and sign up or call 311.

This year's autumn events, Spooky Walk and Not-so-Spooky, were both a huge success, with over 7,000 visitors on the weekend before Halloween. The weather behaved so the zombies and ghosts were able to come out and play.

**Winter is on its way, so what is there to see at the Clark Botanic Garden?**

Winter is my favorite time of year in the Garden. The winter solstice, December 21 through the spring equinox March 20, is an enchanting time in any garden, but especially at Clark Botanic Garden. Winter interest trees and shrubs abound, so look for Holly, Witch Hazel, Camellias, red and yellow twig Dogwood, Stewartia, Paperbark Maple, Coralbark Maple, Riverbirch, Spruce, Pines and Cedars, and near the entrance is a grand specimen Magnolia grandiflora, a southern evergreen magnolia.

Winter is the best time to prune and that is exactly what our staff is doing on the grounds when the weather permits. Between maintaining all the tropicals we overwinter in the greenhouses and propagating by cuttings the many plants from last year, we are sowing the seeds for next season's annual beds and vegetable displays. Our new greenhouse will be up and running this winter and we are anxious to pack it with exciting plant material.

Supervisor Judy Bosworth and the Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Jill Weber, welcome you year round to enjoy Clark Botanic Garden, the Jewel of the Town of North Hempstead. Our Late Fall/Winter hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 7 days November-March. Spring/Summer hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 7 days April - October.

**WINTER PRUNING TIPS:**

**LATE FALL:** after several frosts

- Clip away excess ivy growth on building walls and around windows: English ivy, Boston ivy and Virginia creeper.

**WINTER:** after several hard freezes; plants are truly dormant

- Thin the crowns of mature trees; remove dead or storm-damaged limbs
- Clip hedges to retain clean lines

**LATE WINTER/EARLY SPRING:** just before bud break

Best time to prune roses and summer blooming shrubs such as:

- Some hydrangea,
- Rose-of-Sharon,
- Glossy abelia,
- Buddleia (butterfly bush),
- Caryopteris (bluebeard),
- Cornus (dogwood species with brightly colored bark)
- Hypericum (St.-John's-Wort)
- Perovskia (Russian sage)
- Privet
- Spirea bumalda, S. billiardii
- Head back growth of random-branched conifer species: junipers, Chamaecyparis (false cypress), yews and arborvitae.
- This is the preferred time to rejuvenate evergreen and deciduous shrubs and hedges that are out of bounds.
- Best time to annually prune most vines.
- Avoid pruning species prone to bleeding (birch, elm, maple, and yellow-wood).

Information is from "Pruning: An Illustrated Guide to Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs" by Donald A. Rakow and Richard Weir III, Cornell University Hope to see you Beyond the Garden Gates soon!

# Interfaith Prayer Service

On November 22nd, clergy and residents from the many houses of worship and faith traditions that make up our community filled Temple Sinai in Roslyn for the Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service that has become a cherished tradition here.

The evening began with the blowing of a shofar, the ram's horn, by Sidney Rothschild of Temple Sinai to announce the beginning of the service. The congregation then rose to sing America, the Beautiful.

Rabbi Michael White of Temple Sinai gave welcoming remarks incorporating Jewish prayers, the Prayer of St. Francis and other readings to stress the need that we all feel for peace in our world and in our community. Rabbi White's remarks were followed by the congregation singing "God Bless America."

Clergy and laity from the participating traditions spoke movingly about the need for generosity to those who are in need, here and around the world, and illustrated their remarks with prayer.

Seemi Ahmed, of the Islamic Center of Long Island prayed that "when we have food, help us to remember the hungry."

Mark Danielson of the Communi-



ty Church of East Williston urged us "when we have work, to remember the jobless."

Carol Hayes, from St. Aidan's, prayed that when we are without pain we would "remember those who suffer, and care enough to help those who cry out for what we take for granted."

Rabbi Andrew Gordon of Temple Sinai and Seemi Ahmed both spoke of

*Above left, Seemi Ahmed, Islamic Center of Long Island, Reverend Christina van Liew, Rector, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection; right, Enjoying a meal together. Below, left to right, Reverend Dan Fritz, Community Church of East Williston, Habeeb Ahmed, Islamic Center of Long Island, Reverend Jerry Matthew, The Roman Catholic Church of Saint Aidan, Rev. Msgr. James M McDonald, Pastor, The Roman Catholic Church of Saint Aidan, Seemi Ahmed, Islamic Center of Long Island, Reverend Christina van Liew, Rector, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Rabbi Michael White, Temple Sinai of Roslyn*

the need for thankfulness, which was followed by a moment of silent reflection.

The Nassau County Jewish Community Choir performed a work called "Let There Be Love-Hashkiveinu," followed by the choir from St. Aidan's which performed "For the Beauty of the Earth" a song of thanksgiving for the many gifts of nature, family and

friends which God has given us.

Rev. Dan Fritz from the Community Church of East Williston spoke movingly about the work of the Interfaith Nutrition Network, and donations for the INN were made by the congregation at the conclusion of the service.

Additional prayers of gratitude were offered by various members of the clergy. Msgr. McDonald of St. Aidan's spoke of the Christian teaching that "whatever you have done for these, the least of my brethren, you have done for me."

The service concluded with a performance of Gabriel Faure's "Sanctus" by the St. Aidan's Choir, and a song entitled "Dona Nobis Pacem/Sim Shalom" (Give us peace, goodness and blessing) performed in Latin and Hebrew by the Nassau County Jewish Community Choir. The congregation then met in the lobby for refreshments and friendship.

Next year's Thanksgiving Service will be held at the Community Church of East Williston, and we look forward to telling you about it in The Williston Post or, better yet, joining you there.



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# Chamber of Commerce Rings In the Holidays In Style

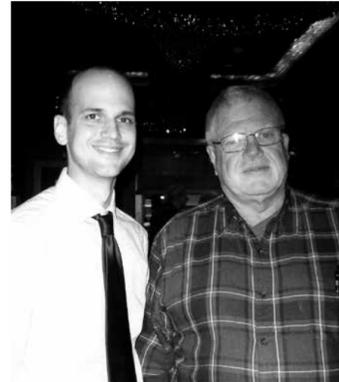


The members of the Chamber of Commerce of the Willistons and their guests were treated to a fabulous evening at Memories 3 to kick off the holidays.

Owner Joe Pereira was the consummate host, providing a feast fit for kings and queens!

If you have not been to Memories you don't know what you are missing! Great food, amazing staff, and wonderful atmosphere.

Thank you to Joe and his staff for welcoming us with open arms.



Clockwise from top left, Maureen Corrigan and Connie Dawes; Chamber President John Gordon and Williston Plumbing's Ron Doughty; Former and Current Mayors Ehrbar; Memories Owner Joe Pereira; Liam Patterson, John Marsala and Rob Wilgolz



# Bell Ringing

As they have for the past several years, the members of the Williston Park Rotary Club had the opportunity to "ring in" the holiday season by tending a Salvation Army kettle at North Shore Farms on Jericho Turnpike on November 19th.

This is an enjoyable opportunity to raise money for the Salvation Army, which in turn does so much good for so many in need.

The Rotarians are never surprised by the generosity of the community, and were able to raise almost \$500.00.

Happily the weather was as warm as the generosity of the shoppers, and the Rotarians look forward to ringing the bells again next year.

If you missed the Rotarians at North Shore Farms, it's not hard to find a Salvation Army kettle some-



where while you are going about your daily tasks during this Holiday season.

Donating your loose change (or a little more if you can) is a great way to put a small donation to work for people who really need it.

Top, Rotarians Larry Kane and Cuqui Arken; Bottom left, a generous young donor and her father; Bottom right, Ray Haller and Karen Wiley with Mo Kearns from Copperhill

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## AVM Demars Celebrates 30 Years in Business

Congratulations to AVM DeMars CPA's on celebrating a truly impressive milestone--30 years in business!

Located at 275 Hillside Avenue in Williston Park, AVM DeMars has been a leading provider of accounting, tax and consulting services to individuals and the business community in the Willistons and throughout Long Island.

The firm recently hosted an evening at Sangria71 with clients, friends, and family commemorating their anniversary.

The Williston Post congratulates Lou, Adele, and Shirish on 30 years of professional accomplishment, and wishes them many more years of even greater success!



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# The Williston Park Rotary Club's Annual Night of Giving

By **Raymond Haller**

Once a year, the Williston Park Rotary Club holds its dinner meeting at a local restaurant. This year on November 15th the venue for the dinner, called the Night of Giving, was Sangria 71 on Hillside Avenue. During the year, the Rotary Club works diligently running events to raise funds for numerous local, national and international charities.

Over the years, the Rotary Club has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to be given away locally here on Long Island.



The Club has donated to several local Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, American Cancer Society, Camp Paquatuck, the back to school backpack program at St. Aidan's, the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, the Community Church of East Williston, the East Williston and Williston Park Fire Departments, the East Williston and Williston Park Little Leagues, the Long Island Blood Center, and Long Island Harvest just to name a few.

It goes without saying that the ability of the Club to donate funds to these organizations is dependent in large part upon the generosity of the Willistons Community in supporting the Club's fundraising activities.

On the Evening of Giving, donations were given to several charities:

- The Alford Family Thanksgiving program. They generously prepare approximately 300 hot Thanksgiving meals and deliver them to seniors and shut-ins on Thanksgiving Day, and the Club donated \$1,000 in support.
- Another donation, in the amount of \$500 was given to the Tzu Chi Foundation located on East Williston Ave. in East Williston. This Foundation donates money, clothing and countless man-hours to those in need. Recently, they help the flood victims down in the south. They are wonderful charitable organization to which the Rotary Club has given its support. You can read about one example of the good work of the Tzu Chi, a winter clothing drive, elsewhere in this edition of The Williston Post.
- Finally, a donation in the amount of \$2500 was presented to Dr. Mark Weinblatt, Director of the Winthrop Cancer Center for Kids. Over the years, the Williston Park Rotary Club has donated in excess of \$100,000 to this wonderful cause.

We also had in attendance Mr. Robbie Donno, past club president of the Manhasset Rotary Club and past District Governor and a Director of the Gift of Life program which he started in 1975, and which has been strongly supported by the Williston Park Rotary Club as well. Mr. Donno made a presentation to Dr. Montoya, head of the Winthrop Pediatric Cardiac Care Unit for all of his work in support of the Gift of Life Program, which arranges for the provision of life-saving cardiac care to children from around the world. Since he was unable to attend, Dr. Leonard Krilov, MD graciously accepted the award on Dr. Montoya's behalf.

The evening concluded with members donating dozens of unwrapped toys for the Winthrop Cancer Center for Kids.

Our Club members also collected approximately \$500 for a needy local family whose child is undergoing treatment for a rare blood disease.

The Williston Park Rotary Club would like to thank José Fernandez and his brother Rosendo for their excellent hospitality, delicious food and impeccable wait staff. The Evening of Giving was a memorable event, and the Rotarians look forward to next year's dinner.



Top, John Alford and President Raymond Haller; Middle, Ray Haller welcomed Joe and Cathy from Tzu Chi; Bottom, left to right, Past Presidents Morris Chimon and Karen Wiley, Winthrop's Jean Zebrowski, Ray Haller, Dr. Weinblatt, Dr. Krilov, and Justin Burke

# Sacred Heart Academy Girls Win NYS Varsity CHSAA Championship

By **Bill Downes**

Congratulations to Sacred Heart Academy Girls High School Soccer team on clinching the New York State CHSAA Championship!

The Lady Spartans, led by captains Kristen McArdle and Shannon Etts, traveled to Niagra University and defeated Nardin Academy (Buffalo) 1-0 for the State Championship title.

Many members of the Sacred Heart team hail from Williston Park and the surrounding communities.



Left, Captains Kristen McArdle and Shannon Etts accepting award for NYS Catholic High School Girls Soccer Champions. Above, front row, Captains Etts and McArdle; 2nd row, Sara Micheli, Ellen Byrnes, Tori Minda, Izzy Grant, Clare DeMartini, Alexa Russell, Tess Cash; 3rd row, Coach Speck, Bridget O'Hara, Caroline McDermott, Melissa Biscardi, Caitlin Kennedy, Alyssa Macher, Joanna Graca, Christina Biscardi, Grace Haff, Coach Bralower; 4th row, Emma Cashwell, Liz Crosby, Liz Esposito, Anna Donnelly, Lauren Wasserman, Lauren Bennett, and Liz Dorrian

## Meadow Drive News

### Meadow Drive Second Graders Recycle For Food Pantry

Mrs. Brennan's second-graders at Meadow Drive School in the Mineola Union Free School District are learning to be active participants in their community and good citizens.

Each week, a group of students from Mrs. Brennan's class collects the cans and bottles they find around the Meadow Drive School building.

Once they have collected the cans and bottles, the five- or six-person crew cleans them out and stores them. Several times each month, a volunteer parent along with their child takes the bag of recyclables and returns the cans and bottles for deposit. In the spring,



the class will use the money to shop for food for St. Aidan's Food Pantry.

**Meadow Drive Kids helping Kids**  
Students at Meadow Drive School

held a pajama donation drive to support the Ashley Wade Foundation and Jake's Jammies, which provides the pajamas to the pediatric units of local hospitals.

The goal of Jake's Jammies is to bring love and comfort to all children in the hospital in hopes of brightening their day during a difficult time.

Donations of new pajamas in various sizes were requested throughout a week in November and the school collected more than 240 pairs of pajamas for the cause. The drive culminated with a celebration of generosity in which students wore their own pajamas to school for a day.

Photo courtesy of Mineola Union Free School District

# Teddy Capsis Plays at Yankee Stadium

East Williston's Teddy Capsis, a former Mineola Chief, Carle Place/Wheatley Middle School WildFrog and Chaminade Flyer is now a college sophomore and a starting defensive lineman for the College of Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

On November 12 he had the opportunity to play for Holy Cross against Fordham in the annual Ram-Crusader Cup game at Yankee Stadium, in front

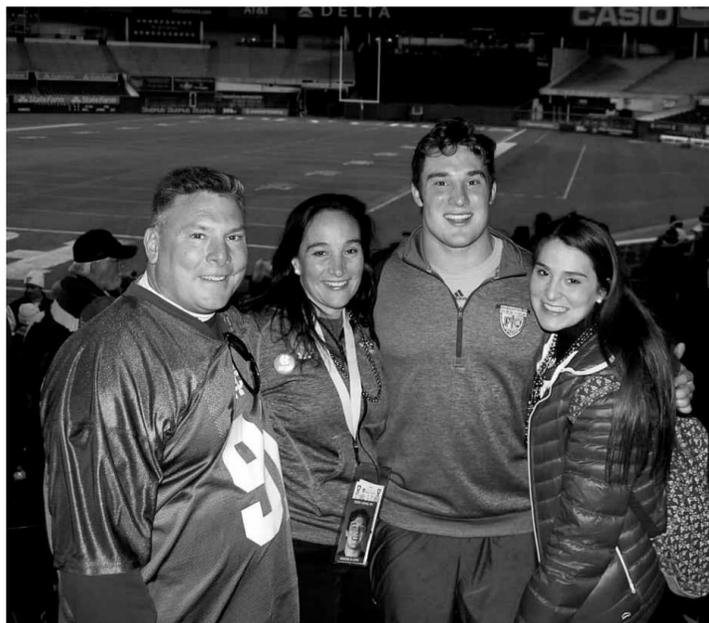


of over 21,000 fans, including his parents Doric and Ariadne, and his sister, Sophia.

Wearing Number 91, Teddy was a starter in 9 games and played in all 11 games for Holy Cross this year, and is looking forward to another season of Crusader football next year.

One of his coaches at Chaminade, Kevin Parente, remembers Teddy as an intense and disciplined player with an exemplary work ethic, and he clearly brought those qualities with him to the college level.

Teddy is extremely grateful to his family and to all the friends and neighbors who have been supporting him and cheering him on throughout his football career. The Williston Post joins Teddy's family, friends, and neighbors in congratulating him on a great season.



# Honored for Generous Spirit

Eileen Burke, a teacher in the Mineola Union Free School District for almost 30 years, has been recognized by the We CARE Fund of the Nassau County Bar Association for her generous spirit and heartfelt concern for others.

The WE CARE Fund is the nationally-recognized charitable arm of the Nassau County Bar Association. Founded in 1988, WE CARE funds are raised by the legal profession and the community at large. The money is distributed through charitable grants to improve the quality of life for children, the elderly and others in need throughout Nassau County.

Since its inception, the WE CARE Fund has raised more than \$3 million that has gone directly to assist more than 100 charitable causes.

Through her longtime affiliation with Mineola High School's Student Service Center, Ms. Burke has worked with the We CARE Fund for more than 10 years.

Martha Haesloop, Esq. presented Ms. Burke with the plaque at the November meeting of the Mineola School District's Board of Education.

Ms. Burke has been co-director of the Student Service Center since 2004 and has also been honored as a Distinguished Teacher by the Harvard Club of Long Island and as an Educator of Excellence by the NYS English Council.



Photo courtesy of Mineola Union Free School District

## It's All About Giving Back....

On behalf of the parishioners that we serve from St. Aidan's Church, Roslyn Heights Funeral Home will make a \$250 donation in their loved one's name to any program or ministry that is part of St. Aidan's Church.

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Maureen Corrigan-Treasurer for Chamber of the Willistons

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Traci Mulrean, Brittany Willoughby, Ashley Willoughby  
Mineola Firefighter-Brendan Corrigan, Mineola Jr. Firefighter-Andrew Desiderio

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# Lighting the Tree in the Willistons



East Williston and Williston Park kicked off the Holiday Season with their annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies.

On December 4th Santa Claus led the way from the Williston Park Fire House to the front lawn of the Williston Park Village Hall where Mayor Ehrbar and the Board lit up the beautiful Williston Park Christmas Tree.

In East Williston on December 6th rainy weather was unable to dampen the spirits of the children and their parents who gathered on the Village Green to wait for the tree to be lit and for Santa to arrive by fire truck. The children followed Santa to the Village Hall and from there went to the Firehouse for hot chocolate and cookies.

Many of the parents in attendance at these ceremonies were once small children here.

The Holidays are another reminder that so many people who were born here choose to return to make the Willistons home for themselves and for their own children.



# Seniors Helping Seniors

The Peer Leadership Group from Herricks High School, under the direction of Gina Schrader, visits the Herricks Alzheimer's Day Program several times each school year.

The program provides a wonderful opportunity for seniors and high school age teenagers to interact.

Recently, the Herricks Alzheimer's Day Program and the Herricks High School Peer Leadership Group joined together on a project to help celebrate Thanksgiving by decorating cupcakes and engaging in various games.

The Herricks Alzheimer's Day Program, also known as "Our Space" is a social model of Adult Day Care for Nassau County residents over the age of 60 with a diagnosis of early to mod-

erate onset of dementia. The program meets Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 3pm at the Herricks Community Center, 999 Herricks Road, New Hyde Park.

Please call the Program Director Patricia Foley, M.S. Ed. or Assistant Director Annamaria Testa, RN, BS at 516-742-0851 for additional information, or if you wish to volunteer or to make a financial contribution to the program.

Monetary donations to support the work of the program are welcome, and can be made out to HCF, ALZ. Day Program. All contributions help support activities like this and others at the program and would be greatly appreciated.



# "The Miracle Worker" Performed at Mineola High School

Mineola High School's Drama Club presented "The Miracle Worker" on November 18 and 19.

This classic drama from both stage and screen, tells the story of Annie Sullivan, played by Katrine Guliano, and her student, blind and mute Helen Keller played by Bridget Healey.

"The Miracle Worker" dramatizes the volatile relationship between the determined young teacher and her charge. Only Annie realizes that there is a mind and spirit waiting to be rescued from the dark, tortured silence.

With scenes of intense physical and emotional dynamism, "The Miracle Worker" kept audiences enthralled as Helen's turbulent fight for enlightenment played out before their eyes.



Cast members: Back row, (l-r): Jameson Granados, Josephine Jones, Zac Sloan, Kacie Rumm, Chloe Katinas, Sarah Carbain and Ameena Hamraz; Third Row, (l-r): Samantha Trested, Katrine Guliano and Austin Velez; Second row, (l-r): Sarah Harty, Bridget Healy and Nathan Bischoff; Front row, (l-r): Jacqueline Letta and Sarah Stiehl.



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# Get Involved, Volunteer!

By **Raymond Haller**

If you really want to feel good inside, volunteer!

There are many ways to volunteer and there are many organizations that would love to have more people to volunteer.

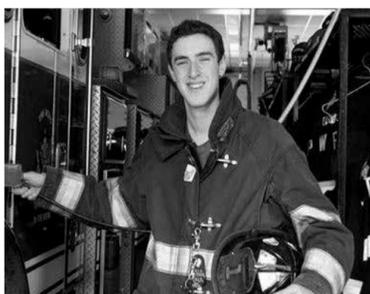
The act of volunteering takes on many dimensions. There are great organizations like the United Way, Habitat for Humanity, City Harvest, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and many others that seek volunteers to help them with the useful and necessary work performed by their organizations.

There are fraternal and service organizations, such as the Knights of Columbus, the Rotary Club or the Lions Club, that work as a group and volunteer, all in the name of charity.

You can work as a volunteer in your community by joining the Fire Department or the Ambulance Corps, or by lending a hand with the many programs run by your church or synagogue.

Youth organizations like the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or youth sports programs are frequently shorthanded and can always use help from the parents of some of the children who participate.

One of the greatest volunteers of all times was Mother Theresa.



If you want to feel good, read any book written by Mother Theresa. Her life was a perfect example of volunteering—providing service and help without expectation of reward.

One of my favorite verses from the Bible at 1 Peter 4:10 reads: “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms”

You don’t need to join an organization to be a volunteer. Acts of charity come from the heart and can be done person to person.

Visiting a senior citizen neighbor and running an errand, or shoveling snow from the sidewalk, or going to the grocery store for someone who you know is ill are all wonderful and personal ways to volunteer.

Any act of kindness that you do for someone else, whether it be small or large is good for the recipient and good for your heart.

So get off the couch, put down your iPad and iPhone and get involved.

Many organizations are looking to you to ask “what can I do to help?”, many individuals are asking themselves “who will help me?”

Be the answer to so many problems—get involved, volunteer, and you will be glad that you did.

# Legionnaires of Williston Post 144 Hold Their Annual Thanks to the Volunteers Dinner



Above, American Legion Committee Chair P.C. Sassano, Raymond Haller & Committee Member P.C. Frank Oliveri Right, American Legion Past Commander Robert Robesch receiving his Past Commander Plate from President Horvath

On Saturday December 3rd the members of American Legion Post 144 held their annual Thanks to the Volunteers Dinner.

The Dinner gave President of the Auxiliary Christine Horvath, Past Commander Robert Robesch and current Commander Frank Busa the opportunity to thank all the members who volunteered their time to support our Legion programs and catering functions.

Special guests this year were the Honorable Paul Ehrbar and his wife Doreen, Raymond and Lisa Haller and Nancy Zolezzi who were great supporters of the Post throughout the year.

A special thanks was given to the Hallers for their annual Christmas donation to the Post’s Annual Children’s Christmas Party.



Above, The Honorable Paul Ehrbar



Robert J Mitchell, CPA, EA  
Marvin Goodman, CPA Associate  
Theresa Homberger, Associate

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# News from Clark Garden

## Town to Host Winter Wonderland at Clark Garden

Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Judi Bosworth and the Town Board are proud to announce that the Town will be hosting the Winter Wonderland Train and Light Show from December 18 to December 22 inside the historic Clark House at Clark Botanic Garden in Albertson. The event is being sponsored by Bethpage Federal Credit Union and will offer an array of different activities daily.

Residents are invited to visit the Clark House to enjoy the celebration, which will feature a holiday train show with a steam locomotive donated by Willis Hobbies and holiday lights in the garden. In addition, there will be family-friendly activities throughout the week including a large ride-on train for children, holiday storytelling, crafts, stargazing and more!

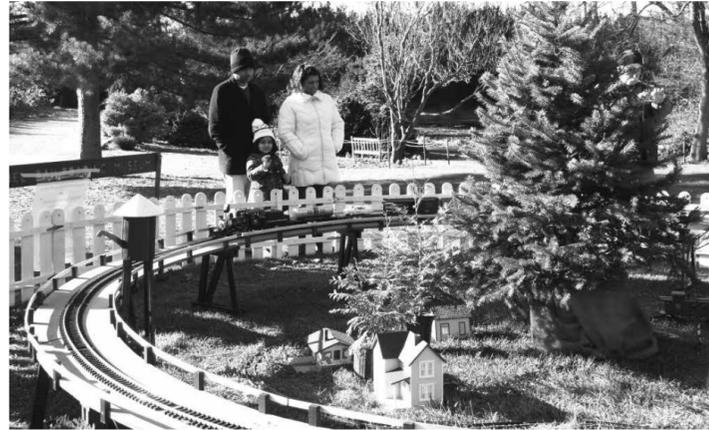
The fun begins on **Sunday, December 18 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.**, with holiday festivities including a ride-on train, hot chocolate, storytelling, arts and crafts, free photo booth and light displays.

- On **Monday December 18**, the event will be open from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will feature short theatrical readings by the fire.
- **Tuesday, December 20** is story telling with staff from Williston Park Library at the Clark House from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- On **Wednesday December 21** from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. there will be star gazing in the garden to mark the winter solstice.
- The final night of Winter Wonderland will be a kid's dance party featuring DJ Kev Dee on **Thursday, December 22**. The event will run from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will have a visit from Santa.

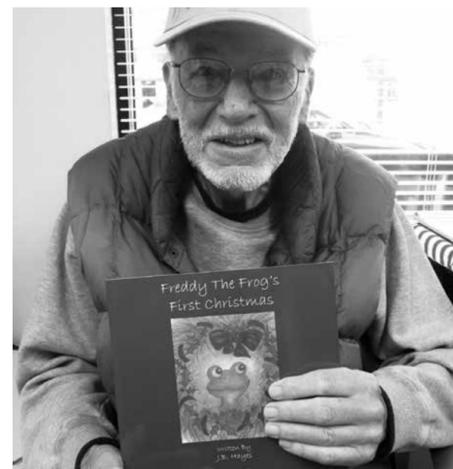
The event is free of charge to Town of North Hempstead residents. Clark Botanic Garden is located at 193 I.U. Willets Road in Albertson. For more information, please call 311 or visit [www.northhempsteadny.gov](http://www.northhempsteadny.gov).

## Holiday Boutique at Mary Mountford Gift Shop in Clark Botanic Garden

The gift shop is beautifully decorated for the holidays and filled with perfect gifts for the home and that special person. The gift shop is Open every day except Tuesday from 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM.



Above, the outdoor train set at Clark Botanic Garden in Albertson  
Below, the train set at the Clark House.



## Local Author Publishes Children's Book

Long-time resident James Bumstead dropped by to show us his latest book, *Freddy the Frog's First Christmas*. This wonderful story, written under the pen name J.B. Hayes, was beautifully illustrated by his daughter Heather, and would make the perfect gift for a young reader.

Merry Christmas Jim, and thanks for stopping by!



# A Neighborhood Reunion



Top row, the Mayces-Marianne, John, Barbara, Joan, Julie & Albert; second row, Mary Suski & Mac Perrotta; Mac & Mario Perrotta with Carla, Michael, Teresa, Joanne & Marie; The Moriartys-Maureen, Barbara, Gerard, Michael & Mary Ellen; third row, Mario Perrotta & The Dead End Kids

Growing up happens so fast but the friends who grew up alongside of you stay in your heart for a lifetime. That is why The Dartmouth Street Dead End Kids of 1959-1979 decided to get together on Sunday, November 13, 2016 for a long overdue reunion.

The reunion was held at the home of long time Williston Park residents, Immaculata (Mac) and Mario Perrotta (ages 84 & 89). Mac and Mario were joined by their beloved former next door neighbor, Mary Suski (age 91). Mario, Mac and Mary shared a most memorable day with people they still refer to as the kids.

Those kids, who now range in age from 52 to 70, recounted stories of a childhood they were fortunate to share. Common experiences and shared memories have welded them together in a very unique and special way. They all felt blessed to grow up in a remarkable little corner of an extraordinary village.



## Williston Park Civic Association Activity Report

We are looking to revitalize the Williston Park Civic Association, and we cordially invite interested residents to join us.

Membership criteria have been revised, and the Civic Association is now open to all persons or organizations residing in or having a business presence in the boundaries of the Incorporated Village of Williston Park. Membership is now also open to former residents and anyone with an interest in promoting quality of life in Williston Park.

The Williston Park Civic Association has continued in existence although there have been only annual meetings since 2014. However, we have continued in our mission to inform Village residents and other interested parties about various issues of public concern in the village.

For example, members of the Association have attended every regularly scheduled Village Board Meeting to

monitor those activities.

We have also been present at various special hearings of the Board. When an issue of interest to Village residents and other interested parties is identified, an e mail is sent to all members who were registered with the Association.

We will also provide information about these issues on the Civic Association webpage, which can be found at [www.willistonparkcivic.org](http://www.willistonparkcivic.org).

The Association also maintains a Facebook page. The Association's Community Projects Fund, used for charitable purposes, still has funds remaining, and we have been consulting with other service organizations in the Village to help support their activities.

However, if we want to continue to provide these services, and others, we simply need more new and returning members.

We are announcing new lower dues at \$12 a year for voting membership.

A membership application can be found on our website and, as an additional incentive, we will offer one of the tee shirts described in the website

at the bargain price of only \$5 for all dues payments sent in before January 1, 2017.

### Chanukah Wishes from Schechter School of Long Island

For many of us, Chanukah is a magical holiday. The good food, the singing, the time spent with family is priceless. But the real magic of Chanukah is hidden in the flames of the candles we light. We light the Chanukah candles in the cold dark months of the year, where it is quite literally hard to see.

In this state, it is easy to despair and lose hope. But on Chanukah, we remember and proclaim the miracle that even when things are darkest there is always hope. There is hope in the candles we light, but there is also hope in seeing the lights of friends and family and knowing that we have a wonderful community to support us.

Wishing us all a holiday filled with the lights of our loved ones shining bright. Chag urim sameah! (Happy holiday lights.)

*Yosi Cirlin  
Rav Beit haSefer  
Schechter School of Long Island*

## Growing Up in Williston Park, One Day at a Time!

Growing up, I was a small leaf in the Haller Family Tree. Hallers came from Ridgewood, Glendale, or Woodhaven and, of course, from Williston Park.

Growing up in Williston Park I experienced life with many adventures and fond memories. I was raised by wonderful parents and surrounded by many aunts, uncles and cousins who played a large role in my young life, and continue to do so even today.

**"I cherish the memory of how generous my Aunt Loretta was with her time, her stories, her teaching and her love."**

I have particularly fond memories of one of my father's sisters, my Aunt Loretta. I have aunts on my father's side who I love dearly, but my aunt Loretta was probably my favorite growing up.

I always thought of my Aunt Loretta as a very special person. She was extraordinarily sweet and kind, and she possessed more patience than a saint. She would always listen to me and pay extra attention to what I was saying, and she genuinely cared about my little problems back in the early 60s. I won't say that I was wrapped around her finger or vice versa, but I always knew I could get a second piece of cake or another piece of candy when my Aunt Loretta was around.

On those occasions when Aunt Loretta would watch us while mom and dad were out, it was like hitting the jackpot or going to Disneyland. She loved to play board games with us, read as many stories as we wanted, and she would frequently teach us something totally new that we never knew before. She was always very generous and not just with her time and attention.

When I was growing up there was a hobby shop on Hillside Avenue, just off

of Concord Avenue. I remember once seeing a wooden motorboat, red with white stripes and a battery-operated motor. It cost \$15.00 which, at the time, was a very large sum of money. I told my Aunt Loretta about the boat and we hopped in her car and went to see it in the window on a Sunday afternoon just before dinner. On the way home she told me that she knew that I liked the boat but she told me that \$15 was more than she could afford which I understood, even then.

A few months later, we were off on another family vacation with Aunt Loretta and Uncle Ken. On the first night of our vacation, Aunt Loretta surprised me with a wrapped present. Not knowing what it could be, I gingerly removed the wrapping and to my delight I discovered that it was a little white and blue motorized boat. It wasn't the one from the hobby shop window-- it was smaller and made of plastic, and I'm sure it didn't cost \$15, but it didn't matter, I loved it! I was overwhelmed and so thankful for my Aunt Loretta's thoughtfulness. Warm and thoughtful, she always was thinking of others, and she still is the same loving person today.

Growing up in Williston Park was fun. I still remember all my childhood friends and even though I don't have the little blue motorboat, I will always remember how happy I was when my Aunt Loretta gave me that little boat.

But I also remember, and cherish just as much, the memory of how generous she was with her time, her stories, her teaching and her love. She is as sweet and kind now as she was when I was a little boy.

Just think how much better off the world could be today if we all had a few

more Aunt Loretas in our lives, and if we all tried to be like Aunt Loretta in other peoples' lives as well.

God bless you my dear Aunt Loretta, and thank you for so many fond memories!



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# Second Annual East Williston Turkey Trot

Cloudy weather and a bit of mist weren't enough to keep more than 40 dedicated runners from coming to Richard Camp Field to register and run in the second annual East Williston Turkey Trot.

The race, which provides East Williston residents with an excellent way to run off that second helping of turkey or pumpkin pie from the night before, covers the same 5K course as the annual Memorial Day run.

The Turkey Trot has a certain less formal air to it though and, while everyone ran their best, several runners took the organizers up on their invita-

tion to run in costume, as the accompanying photographs show.

The first runner in was Devin Brancato, with a time of 18:57. The first woman in, Suzie Potucek, wasn't far behind with a time of 21:42.

Medals were awarded to the next 15 finishers, but everyone who ran had the pleasure of spending time with friends and neighbors and the satisfaction of helping to raise funds for our East Williston Fire Department as well as collecting food for the needy.

We really look forward to next year's run. Congratulations to all!



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### About the Psalms

Especially those prayed in Advent  
 Wednesday at 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
 DECEMBER 14TH

### Bloom Where You Are Planted

Finding hope in a stressful holiday season  
 Wednesday at 11:00 am OR 7:00 pm  
 DECEMBER 21ST and JANUARY 25TH

### Weekly Sessions on Sunday Scripture Readings

Thursday Afternoons 4:00 – 5:00 pm  
 Every week except after Christmas

### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

All are welcome  
 Come as you are  
 Go in peace

### Healing Prayer and Eucharist

Wednesdays 10:00 am – 10:30 am  
 Morning Prayer the week after Christmas

### Advent Candle-lighting, Prayers and Eucharist

Sundays 10:00 am – 11 am

### Mini Mass

Sundays 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm  
 Every week except after Christmas

### Christmas Eve

Candlelight, traditional carols within contemporary telling of The Story, and Eucharist.  
 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

### Christmas Day

Traditional Eucharist with Carols  
 10:00 am – 10:45 am

### New Year's Day

Feast of the Holy Name  
 10:00 am – 11:00 am

### January 1, 2017 Evening

Celtic Eucharist  
 Calming, Grounding, Centering  
 5:30 pm – 6:15 pm

# Christmas at St. Aidan's

*FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN  
 UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN*  
 2016 Christmas and New Year  
 Mass Schedule

**Confessions**  
 Saturdays  
 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM and 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
 Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> & Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM  
 Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Masses**  
**Christmas Vigil**  
 Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
 4:00 PM - Church  
 \*4:15 PM Msgr. - \*Kirwin Hall  
 \*4:15 PM - \*Gym  
 5:30 PM - Church  
 8:00 PM - Church  
 12:00 Midnight – Solemn Mass with Choir

**Christmas Day**  
 Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 NOON, 1:30 PM  
 No Evening Masses on Christmas Night

**Mary, Mother of God Vigil**  
 Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016  
 5:00 PM, 7:30 PM  
 Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017  
 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 NOON, and 5:00 PM

# Christmas at the Community Church of East Williston

Advent is a special time in the Church Calendar, and the Community Church of East Williston provides an ongoing observance of the events leading up to Christmas.

Sunday the 18th: Advent worship at 10:00 a.m. with Advent Candle lighting, special music and praise. In the afternoon there will be a Christmas Concert at 3:00 p.m. with joyous Christmas music by the choir and many associated instruments with a Christmas Carol singalong.

Christmas Eve the 24th: At 7:00 p.m. there will be a presentation of the Living Nativity on the lawn in front of the Church. At 7:30 there will be the Early Christmas Eve Service featuring a Christmas Story and at 11:00 p.m. there will be Christmas Eve celebration once again.

Of course one and all are welcome, and invited to all activities and worship services of the Church. If there are any questions please contact Rev. Dan at the Church, 516-742-9690.

# Turkey Bowl 2016 - The Tradition Lives On

Every Thanksgiving morning for 25 years the playing field at Northside becomes Lambeau Field as touch football players spanning several generations gather to play a friendly game at

the East Williston Turkey Bowl.

Younger players coming home from college join with older players who were college students themselves on an earlier Northside morning.

There's always plenty of good food, plenty of laughter and a great game to work up both a Thanksgiving appetite and a sense of camaraderie.

The score? What does it matter?

This is one game where everyone truly is a winner.



# Third Annual Molly Murphy Fun Run in Williston Park

On November 26th over 252 enthusiastic runners and walkers participated in the Third Annual Molly Murphy Fun Run.

The course covered 5 kilometers and started and ended at Kelleher Field.

Jake Tavernite was the overall winner with a time of 18:27. The first female finisher was Tara O'Connell, with a time of 23:35.

While many competitive runners went out for a "personal best" many others simply ran for the fun of it, or for a chance to spend a morning with friends and neighbors.

As you can see from the photos, everyone had a good time of it, and we suspect that many of the runners are looking forward to doing it again next year.

The top male and female finishers were:

- Under 12- Liam Murphy & Mary Ellen Steiner
- 13-18- Oliver Davey & Kaelen Bradley
- 19-29- Jake Tavernite (overall winner) & Erin Fay
- 30-39- Lou Zameryka & Cindy Zameryka
- 40-49- Anthony Iapocce & Tara O'Connell
- 50-59- Peter Schmiehman & Patty Gaughran
- 60+- Tim Davey & Rita D'Angelo



## Veteran Organizations of the Willistons

The Willistons are very fortunate to have two fine organizations supporting the community and our veterans. Membership is open to all qualified veterans and both are always looking for new members.

Meetings are held as follows:

★

### Veteran of Foreign Wars

Theodore G. Neir Post No. 1688  
Second Thursdays @ 7:00 P.M.  
Williston Park Village Hall, 3rd Floor

★

### American Legion

Williston Post 144  
Third Wednesday @ 8:00 P.M.  
(New Members 7:30 P.M.)  
730 Willis Avenue, Williston Park

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# A Tradition of Service on Syracuse Street

Bill Viggiano, of Syracuse Street, shared some photos of himself and his father William Viggiano with us, and we would like to share them with you.

Both Viggianos have called Syracuse Street home, and both served our country in the Army Air Corps or the Air Force.

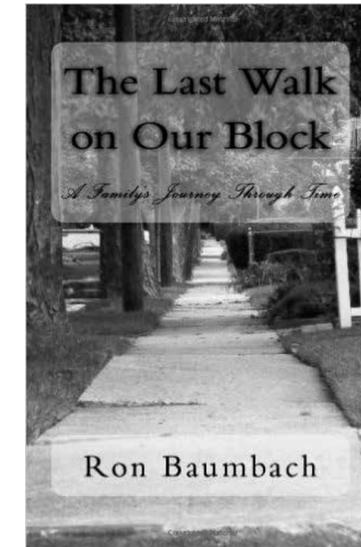
Theirs is a proud tradition of service, for which we thank them.



# Ron Baumbach's "The Last Walk On Our Block" Now on Talk Network Radio

We have been able to share excerpts from Ron Baumbach's local history "The Last Walk On Our Block" in the Williston Post, and we are sure that you enjoyed reading them as much as we enjoyed sharing them with you.

Ron tells us that he now has a weekly talk radio show on the TNR Network, and that he has been able to bring some of his old friends from his Williston Park neighborhood to be guests on the pro-



gram, a walk back on Memory Lane reminiscing about life in the 1950's - 60's and 70's.

The shows are broadcast directly onto the website, and are also available on demand, meaning all of the shows can be listened to whenever you'd like.

If you would like to join Ron in "Old Williston Park" you can listen to the shows on the TNR Website at [www.competell.com](http://www.competell.com).



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