

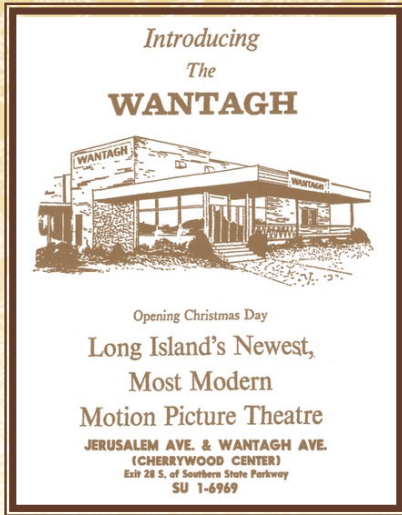


# The Information Window

## Did you know that Wantagh used to have a Movie Theater?

*By Heather Famiglietti, Trustee*

Century Theaters opened “Wantagh Cinema” on Jerusalem Avenue adjacent to the Cherrywood Shopping Center on Christmas day in 1960. It was modern architecture for the time designed by Queens architect Leon A. Miller who also designed the Glen Cove Theater around the same time. The theater had a glass lobby, but didn’t have a balcony. Many memories were made at the theater as local residents remember seeing great films for the first time there like Jaws, Peter Pan, Planet of the Apes and Poltergeist. Our own curator, Carol Poulos, who grew up in Wantagh said, “I remember being so excited to go see Mary Poppins with kids from the neighborhood back in 1965.”



*Announcement for the Opening of the Wantagh Movie Theater*



*The Wantagh Movie Theater back in 1961, note the movie playing at the time “Mr. Sardonicus”*

Wantagh Cinema was later operated by RKO-Century-Warner and finally by Cineplex Odeon until its closure in September 1989 when many in the community were sad to see it converted into an office building that remains there today. 📖

## Small Fire at the Wantagh Museum

During last year’s Winter Wonderland, the roof of the Wantagh Museum sustained a small amount of damage from a localized fire. The Fire Department was very careful in the way they extinguished the fire so that further damage would be minimized. They removed all of the artifacts that were not in showcases and safely stored them on the train. The roof is now tarped and the museum is secured. We keep you updated on steps moving forward. 📖



*Small Fire on the Museum Roof*



*Firemen and Other Volunteers Move Artifacts*



*Tarped Roof*



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



### Wantagh Preservation Society

1700 Wantagh Avenue (Museum Location)

PO Box 132 (Mailing Address)

Wantagh, Long Island, New York 11793

516.783.2519

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

# Wantagh Preservation Society

## Elected Officers

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

## Appointed Officers

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

## Trustees

Bob Cook  
Mary Corrigan  
Bob Meagher  
Fred Parola  
Noreen Parola  
Barry Rivadue  
Elaine Yarris

*The Information Window is the official newsletter of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published approximately three times each year. Please obtain written permission from the individual authors before using material contained in this publication.*

*We hope you enjoy our newsletter. Your comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome!*

*wps@wantagh.li*



*Christmas Tree and Minora Lighting at last year's  
Wantagh Winter Wonderland Event*



*The Wantagh Museum  
Will be open on Sundays  
Noon-2 PM starting April 27*



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

## Attention: Professional Photographers

Whether it be spring, summer, fall or winter, the grounds of the Wantagh Museum provide a scenic venue for professional photographers. However, a Photography Permit is required for all professional photographers that use the museum grounds.



The permit fee is only \$50 per hour. Your fees provide an important source of revenue for our Museum and helps us maintain its beauty that you depend on.

During your photo shoot, the museum grounds remain open to others and a volunteer may be present during the photography time. However, residents that visit the museum have always been courteous.

Photography cannot take place before dawn or after dusk. Permits are rain or shine.



An approved permit must be presented during the shoot upon request. To apply for a permit, please scan or click the QR code. If you have any questions, email [wantaghmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:wantaghmuseum@gmail.com).

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

## Are You Passionate About History?

By Jim Colotti, Editor

Do you love your community and want to contribute to preserving its rich heritage? The Wantagh Preservation Society is calling on dedicated individuals like you to join our team of volunteers. Be a part of history and make a difference!

Why Volunteer? At the Wantagh Preservation Society, we are committed to safeguarding the historical treasures of Wantagh and ensuring that our town's unique story is preserved for future generations. By volunteering with us, you will have exciting opportunities.

- ◆ *Preserve Local History:* Help maintain and restore historical buildings and artifacts. Your efforts will ensure that Wantagh's history remains vibrant and accessible.
- ◆ *Engage with the Community:* Participate in community events and educational programs that celebrate Wantagh's heritage. Share your knowledge and passion with residents and visitors alike.
- ◆ *Learn and Grow:* Gain valuable skills in historical preservation, event planning, and community outreach. Working with like-minded individuals will expand your horizons and deepen your appreciation for local history.
- ◆ *Make Lasting Connections:* Join a network of enthusiastic volunteers who share your love for history. Forge new friendships and create lasting memories as you work together toward a common goal.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization, and there are many ways you can contribute.



- ◆ *Museum Docent:* Guide visitors at our museum, sharing fascinating stories about Wantagh's past.
- ◆ *Event Support:* Assist with organizing and running our community events.
- ◆ *Research and Documentation:* Help us research and document the history of Wantagh, ensuring that we preserve every detail for future generations.
- ◆ *Restoration Projects:* Get hands-on with restoring historical buildings and artifacts. Your craftsmanship will help bring history to life.

Join Us! Scan or click the QR code, or use the form below - thanks!

Join Us Today!

Even if you don't have time to volunteer, please support the Wantagh Museum by becoming a member of the Wantagh Preservation Society. Simply scan or click the QR code, or use the form below. Thanks! 📖

### ***We Need You! Join or Renew Your Membership in 2025!***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ New  Renew   
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to help with:

- |   |   |   |                                      |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening & Planting       | <input type="checkbox"/> General Meeting Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction             | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting Museum on a Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event Planning   | <input type="checkbox"/> Publication & Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                |   |   |                                      |

Check Membership Level:  Individual \$15  Family \$25  Friend \$35  Patron \$50  Fellow \$100

**Please Make Checks Payable To: Wantagh Preservation Society PO Box 132 Wantagh, NY 11793**

*“Preservation with a Purpose.”*

## Wantagh News from the Past

*Compiled By Carol Poulos, Co-Curator*

### *1900 - 125 Years Ago*

January - Jonathan Fussell began a four year term as postmaster.

February - A first class Chinese Laundry has been opened at Wantagh, Henry Sam, Proprietor.

### *1910 - 115 Years Ago*

February - An important realty transaction took place last week, when Birdsall Jackson sold 20 or more lots on Jones Avenue to John Seaman, who expects to move here in the spring. We understand Mr. Seaman intends to develop this property in the near future.....A new set of doors and a new run has been placed on the north side of the fire house, where the new gasoline engine has been placed.. March - The final test of the new gasoline engine of the Wantagh Fire Department. was held near the fire house last Saturday. The engine was on its good behavior and showed what it could do.Telephone poles have been erected on Oakland Avenue as far as Seaford Avenue through Sunnycroft in order to give telephone connection to Birdsall Jackson and Justice Corodon Norton.



*Sunnycroft area of Wantagh included Oakland, Locust & Seaford Avenues, south of Sunrise Highway*

### *1915 - 110 Years Ago*

January - The new gas lights were lit for the first time at the Long Island Railroad Station on Monday night. They not only illuminate the station, but also throw a good light on the business street as well.

February - Ground was broken last week for the foundation of the addition to be built to the fire house. Mr. Birdsall Smith of Wantagh Avenue is entering some prize poultry in the Madison Square Garden Poultry Show.



*McGee House, 3704 Park Avenue, Circa 1921*

### *1925 - 100 Years Ago*

January - The firemen are making plans for a big pinochle and dance to be held next month. The Flying Eagle Patrol of the Wantagh Boy Scouts held a patrol meeting at the home of Thos. McGee on Park Avenue. The first annual pinochle and dance given last Saturday evening by the Alliance Club at the Fire Hall, was a most successful affair.



*Boy Scout Troop 95, Circa 1927*

### *1935 - 90 Years Ago*

January - A 25-cent round trip toll went into effect on the new Wantagh and Meadowbrook Causeways. There were also 10-trip tickets, monthly tickets and season tickets offered. For those going to Jones Beach, the 25 cent charge was to be deducted from the parking fee.

March - Bus service was extended from Bellmore to Wantagh with a ceremony at the intersection of Wantagh & Park Avenues, music by the Wantagh Fire Department Band, and the cutting of tape opposite the Wantagh Hotel. 📖