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GreatNet Website Makes Its Debut

Fostering Inter-municipal Cooperation

By Wendy Karpel Kreltzman

GreatNet is up and running. Visit GreatNet on the Internet, at www.greatnetny.net, and you will find a source for all the villages, the town, and the special districts on the Great Neck peninsula. This program is the creation of Infosys International Inc., a 22-year-old information technology company from Plainview. According to Infosys International Vice President Mark Schimel, a longtime Great Neck resident and creator of the program, this program is the first of its kind in New York.

Starting the project, Mr. Schimel felt that "Great Neck truly needs a real time technology tool enabling all the governmental entities on the peninsula to cooperate and coordinate."

Funded through a New York State Department of State grant, the website provides a mechanism through which public officials can communicate "24/7." Through the site's "back-end" program, local mayors and other such officials can enter a secure section of the site via passwords and distribute information to their colleagues, as well as receive feedback for innovative ideas. Through this web-based intranet program inter-municipal cooperation will be fostered.

Mr. Schimel told the *Great Neck Record*: "The great value of this section is to foster cooperation between the municipalities on the peninsula.

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They can share bids for greater buying power, share on grant applications to strengthen the application, and share ideas in their forum section. It will allow each entity to operate more efficiently as they can learn from the success stories each has to tell. Most importantly in these times is that it will allow smaller municipalities to initiate cooperative ventures in order to lower their costs and save the taxpayers' money."

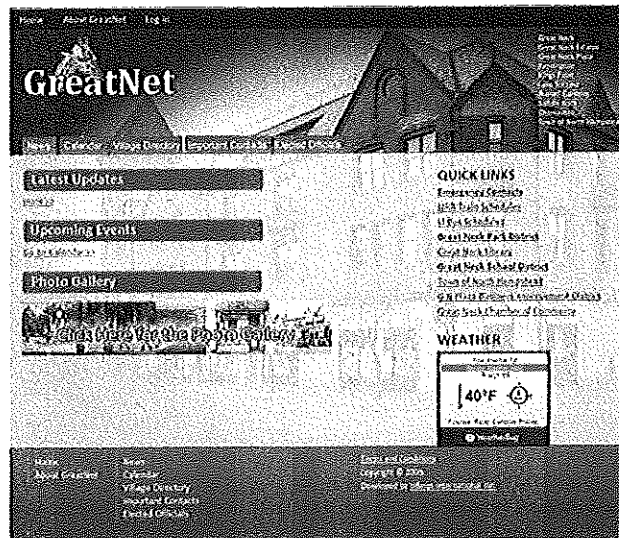
And along those lines, the website contains sites for cooperative purchasing and grants.

For the public, this is an Internet site which includes information on not only the nine villages and the town, but as well there are the special districts, the public schools, the park district, the library, the Chamber of Commerce, the Plaza Business Improvement District, etc. There is also an emergency section, and emergency postings pop-up immediately. Train and bus schedules are included, as well as a community calendar.

Mr. Schimel said, "Here you can find a very clear peninsula-wide calendar so residents and visitors see events and activities in any village or special district, such as the park district, school district, or even sewer district. It will allow notices to be posted for any health or safety warnings for the area, unscheduled school closings, road repairs, or anything else that might affect the quality of life on the peninsula. It has a very comprehensive contact list for elected officials, emergency phone numbers, village offices, and other important phone numbers."

There are links from GreatNet to any village or municipality on the peninsula that has its own website.

And for all who are concerned with the state's push for consolidation (and dissolution), Mr. Schimel told the *Record* that the website's emphasis on cooperation and collaboration among municipalities shows what local government can do, together, saving taxpayers money and providing even better local government.



To bring the GreatNet program to your region, contact

Mark Schimel, Vice President, Sales & Marketing
Infosys International Inc., 110 Terminal Drive, Plainview, NY 11803

(516)244-0340

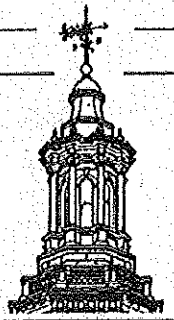
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GREAT NECK'S OFFICIAL
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Greatnet Debuts On Internet

The Great Neck Peninsula has a new place on the Internet: www.greatnetny.net.

For the first time, there is a "one-stop" information source for all of Great Neck's villages, special districts and Town of North Hempstead on the Great Neck Peninsula www.greatnetny.net.

Funded through a \$50,000 New York State Department of State grant (of which the Town of North Hempstead is paying 10 percent) and at no cost to the villages, the regional site may be the first of its kind in New York State. The Town of North Hempstead, through its own IT department, is hosting the site and will handle maintenance.

Produced by Infosys International Inc., a 22 year old Information Technology company located in Plainview, GreatNet is a web based intranet platform that has two main components: an internet site for the public, and a secure intranet for officials.

At the internet site for the public, you can find a very clear Peninsula-wide calendar so residents and visitors see events and activities in any village or special district, such as the park district, school district, or sewer district. It will allow notices to be posted for any health or safety warnings for the area, unscheduled school closings, road repairs, or anything else that might affect the quality of life on the peninsula. It has a comprehensive contact list for elected officials, emergency phone numbers, village offices, and other important phone numbers. Because GreatNet will be updated regularly, residents will check the site frequently for news and events. There are links from GreatNet to any village or municipality on the peninsula that has its own website, as well as LIRR and LI Bus.

The secure, web-based intranet for village officials and special district officers is a password-protected section that allows village mayors, trustees, commissioners and officers to communicate among each other and discuss issues of concern. The great value of this section is to foster cooperation between the municipalities on the peninsula. They can share bids for greater buying power, grant applications to strengthen the application, and ideas in their forum section.

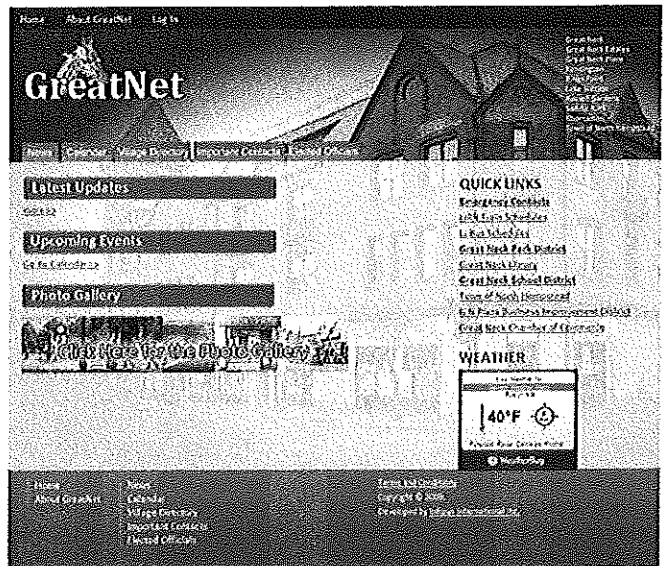
That ability to foster cooperation among the municipalities and the cost-efficiencies that might result, was the real appeal for the Department of State.

"It will allow each entity to operate more efficiently as they can learn from the success stories each has to tell," said Infosys International Vice President Mark Schimel. "Most importantly in these times is that it will allow smaller municipalities to initiate cooperative ventures in order to lower their costs and save the taxpayers' money."

The GreatNet intranet project is the creation of Mr. Schimel, who is also a Great Neck resident. "I felt Great Neck needed a real time technology tool enabling all the governmental entities on the peninsula to cooperate and coordinate. We have nine villages, a Town, a school district, a park district, three fire companies, a library, four village police departments, and more. In addition, there are a host of community service organizations on the peninsula. There is so much going on, but never before was there just one place to see it all."

The GreatNet program is based on Infosys International's iintranet platform that was developed in-house and is a proprietary product of the company. It can be used in private industry as well as municipal applications.

"GreatNet will save the peninsula money, improve the quality of life for the residents and commuters, foster a spirit of cooperation among the separate entities that exist in the area, improve efficiency, and enhance a sense of community that is so vital to our region," said Raj Mehta, Chairman and CEO of Infosys.



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Infosys International Inc., 110 Terminal Drive, Plainview, NY 11803

(516)244-0340

marks@infosysinternational.com