

PRESS RELEASE
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What a Noisy World

Mill Neck Audiology Advocates for Hearing Loss Prevention

Sounds regularly blare from autos, iPods, construction sites, music venues, restaurants and weddings. Exposed to damaging levels on a daily basis, most of us don't give much thought to the inconspicuous side effect, hearing loss, which occurs slowly over time. But according to the Better Hearing Institute, hearing loss has doubled in the last 20 years, and by 2025, the institute anticipates that over 40 million people will be affected.

"Noise is more prevalent now than before. Even toys can be extremely loud, so much so that new regulations require labels to show the noise level emitted. But the bottom line is, any noise above 85 decibels is hazardous to your hearing," said Tanya Linzalone, Director of the Mildred and Frank Feinberg Community Center for Hearing Health at Mill Neck Audiology.

What contributes to the seemingly ubiquitous unawareness about hearing loss prevention? "Not enough advocacy! People need to know that hearing loss due to noise is irreversible. Many don't think to protect their ears because the impact of a loss is not sudden. However, if a person was using a blow torch, they wouldn't hesitate to wear goggles. We need to use the same rationalization with hearing, because otherwise, it's too readily neglected," explained Linzalone.

Despite the 'louder is better trend,' Linzalone is encouraged by a more recent, if slight, improvement in public awareness. She said, "While people are still not taking recommendations to heart, they are more cognizant of the significant communication problems that can occur with hearing loss." With that in mind, an ongoing goal for Mill Neck Audiology is to educate the public about hearing loss consequences. "Hearing loss may cause feelings of isolation, depression and frustration. But it can be prevented by using ear protection," said Linzalone.

Mill Neck Audiology supplies standard and custom ear plugs, as well as noise plugs (molds that decrease damaging noise), for any lifestyle. Ear muffs, often recommended for very high noise areas, can also be ordered depending on a client's needs. Linzalone says she has a plethora of

clients seeking plugs in all age ranges at Mill Neck Audiology, including those who work in the dental, music, truck driving, toll booth and factory industries. Professionals in those particular jobs face excessive noise on a daily basis. “But really, we see people in any very-high noise environment who require plugs,” said Linzalone.

Plugs are all the rage these days. “Custom plugs are a big hit even with those in the ‘coolest’ professions. Take musicians and motorcycle drivers, for instance, who benefit tremendously from them. We can provide custom-made plugs that allow musicians to hear music in an orchestra, but not experience the damaging effects from loudness. It’s unbelievable...so take advantage!” said Linzalone.

So, if it’s a plug, hearing aid or assistive device you’re looking for, visit the experts at Mill Neck Audiology. The Center now accepts most major insurances. If you or someone you know is experiencing hearing difficulties, to schedule a free hearing screening or presentation with Audiologist Tanya Linzalone, please call Mill Neck Audiology at (516) 922-4100, ext. 258. Please note, presentations are typically held for Rotaries at local establishments and also for community members at senior centers and libraries. For tips on preventing hearing loss, visit http://millneck.org/did_you_know/did_you_know.html.

Part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, the Mildred and Frank Feinberg Community Center for Hearing Health at Mill Neck Audiology features separate, state-of-the-art adult and pediatric testing areas, an assistive listening display and an observation room with a parent observation area. The Center also dispenses hearing aids, distributes assistive listening devices and provides amplification adjustments.

The Mill Neck Family of Organizations announces a community outreach partnership with MyHIPLifestyle to provide custom entertainment. The mission of this joint effort is to conduct vital research in order to develop and provide lifestyle products for the hearing impaired, ultimately improving the quality of life for people around the world. For more information, visit <http://myhiplifestyle.com/index.html>.

In addition to Mill Neck Audiology, the Mill Neck Family of Organizations includes Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, established in 1951 to help Deaf children unlock their potential through quality education, Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Center, Mill Neck Foundation, Inc., Mill Neck Services for Deaf Adults and Mill Neck Interpreter Service. For more information about any of these programs, please call (516) 922-4100 or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.

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