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FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

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**SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM**

At our August 18<sup>th</sup> Trustees meeting there was a group of residents who were unhappy with the \$150 administrative fee that the Village charges residents who use Village contractors to replace damaged sidewalks. I understand why residents could be upset by this charge since it comes on top of the expense of replacing the damaged sidewalk flags. I also understand that homeowners are upset when the Public Works inspectors are overzealous in designating certain sidewalk flags as damaged and tripping hazards in need of repair when they appear to be in good condition. Also, residents are justifiably upset when the new concrete is not dyed to match the existing flags so that the repaired sidewalk appears to resemble a checkerboard.

I received numerous emails from residents asking that the administrative fee be dropped since the inspectors and the Public Works employees are already paid a salary. Although this point is well taken, at this time, the majority of the Board of Trustees is not in favor of eliminating the administrative fee without further study of the sidewalk repair program as a whole. Our Village Administrator and the Public Works Department have been tasked to study the entire sidewalk repair policy including the administrative fee, the exact definitions of defects, as well as the process of replacing damaged sidewalk flags and to make recommendations for improvements. This project should be completed by the end of 2016.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS**

I would like to remind you that you are sincerely welcome to attend our Trustees' meetings. As our regular attendees know, at the beginning of the meeting, the public is given the opportunity to address the Board on any listed Agenda item, and at the conclusion of our regular business, to speak on any subject. Speakers are allotted four minutes each, while in many other municipalities speakers are limited to only three minutes or less.

We encourage orderly public participation at our meetings that provides the opportunity for healthy, constructive dialogue that brings to light issues we might not necessarily be aware of. It also allows us to answer questions whenever we can, or see to it that our Village staff gets the answers for you. It allows the discussion to stay on point so that we can hear your suggestions and concerns on any given topic, whether it be centered on your own property, your neighborhood or related to matters affecting the Village as a whole.

However, we cannot allow residents to shout or verbally attack members of the Village staff or Board of Trustees in an effort to “drive home a point.” If we do not immediately praise or agree with a speaker’s point of view, it does not mean we are “against” or do not respect the speaker. If we ask questions of a speaker we are not arguing - we are seeking clarification especially when it’s the first time a given matter has come to our attention or if the speaker is upset about something relating to his or her property or to a safety or quality of life issue and not making clear statements. Sometimes we do not respond or answer questions because the matter is already under consideration or is one on which counsel has advised us not to comment publicly, such as matters of litigation.

I would like to remind everyone that we are your neighbors, working in partnership with you. We are not professional politicians. Our goal is to provide responsive Village government by listening to what you have to say. However, we all have to remember that good communication is a “two-way street.”

### **RENOVATION WORK AT CLUETT HALL AND THE FIELD HOUSE**

As part of the Recreation and Parks Department’s Strategic Plan, renovation work will commence at Cluett Hall and the Field House after Labor Day.

Come the fall, residents can anticipate a fresh coat of paint, new carpets, an upgraded restroom and refinished hardwood floors in Cluett Hall and the Lower Hallway, as well as new LED lighting.

The Field House will also get a fresh coat of paint, new LED lighting throughout the facility and an upgraded restroom, along with new glass backboards, a new “pour over” Pulastic floor and a new exterior door.

### **PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO KEEP GARDEN CITY LOOKING ITS BEST**

I would like to ask residents to be mindful of your neighbors by making sure that refuse is placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m., but not more than 12 hours before collection. The Village is fortunate to have regular garbage pickup, so that you never have to put your garbage out to the curb, as the Village has side yard pickup.

My office has received a few complaints about litter not only on Seventh Street, Franklin Avenue and New Hyde Park Road but on various roads and sidewalks within the Village. Please do your part by cleaning up after yourself, whether you are out in the Business Districts or in your own neighborhood. By everyone doing their part, the Village will look much better for residents, businesses and visitors to enjoy.

### **THANK YOU TO THE CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE AND THE PARKS DEPARTMENT**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Citizens Beautification Committee for

the great job they did in picking out and arranging for the beautiful flowers throughout the Village, especially around Village Hall and on Stewart Avenue and the Franklin Avenue Mall. Thanks also go out to the Parks Department for all their hard work in getting the flowers planted and with the upkeep that they continue to do weekly to keep them all looking beautiful.

### **GARDEN CITY POLICE - DRUG DROP OFF BOX**

In an effort to combat the abuse of prescription drugs, the Garden City Police Department has a metal drug collection box in the front lobby of the Police Department on Stewart Avenue, where citizens can drop off unwanted or expired medications. The following guidelines have been set for the Garden City Police Department Drug Disposal Program:

**Accepted** - unwanted or expired prescription and/or non-prescription medication by citizens; pills and patches are accepted.

**Not Accepted** - Liquids, syringes, inhalers, aerosol cans, creams, ointments, bio-hazard waste, or restricted controlled substances (illicit drugs).

The Garden City Police Department continues to recognize the growing abuse of opiates in the community and the need for solutions. Therefore, working in partnership with the Citizen's Campaign for the Environment to provide services and work toward solving emerging social issues, the Garden City Police Department has officially launched a Drug Disposal Program. The purpose of this drug disposal program is to provide a safe, secure, and anonymous collection and destruction of unused and unwanted prescription and non-prescription medications. The ultimate goal of this program is to provide a safe way to dispose unwanted or expired medications in an effort to prevent crime, drug abuse, accidental poisoning, and environmental contamination. The Department is hopeful that citizens will take advantage of this convenient service which has eliminated the obstacles for community members to properly dispose of their medications.

The Garden City Police Department will continue to work with the community to provide solutions that aim to eliminate opiate abuse. Through this effort, we hope to decrease crimes and tragedies associated with drug abuse or improper drug disposal.

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING SCHEDULE**

The date for the next Board meeting is Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. This meeting will be held in the Board Room at Village Hall. I hope that you will be able to attend this meeting and future meetings so that you can become involved with your Village.