

June 10, 2016

FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE
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By: Nicholas P. Episcopia

THE BELMONT FESTIVAL AT GARDEN CITY

The 19th annual Belmont Festival kicks off at 6:00 p.m. on Seventh Street. Entertainment, live music and plenty of activities for all ages are planned and as always, great food.

The young dancers from Broadway Bound will again perform this year. Jerry & the Newcomers, Fivestone and New Vintage will also return to provide live music all night long. There will also be pony rides, face painting and balloon twisting. Also returning this year is the popular children's poster contest.

In order to accommodate the event as safely as possible, Seventh Street will be cleared of parked vehicles starting at 4:00 p.m. and will be closed to all traffic at that time. Parking fields to the rear of the stores (7S and 7N) will remain open. If your car is parked on Seventh Street, please make sure that it is removed prior to 4:00 p.m. so that the Police Department does not need to take action to move these vehicles.

EAGLE SCOUT COURTS OF HONOR

Since I have been Mayor my wife and I have attended five Eagle Scout Courts of Honor - two at St. Joseph's and one each at St. Ann's, St. Paul's in Hempstead and the Cathedral of the Incarnation. I was honored to represent Garden City at these and to congratulate those wonderful young people who worked so hard serving our community and others.

THIRD TRACK PROJECT

The Governor's team has been using the "carrot and stick" approach in dealing with the affected Villages by tying grade crossing eliminations to the Third Track Project. It is clear that the grade crossings will not be eliminated unless the third track is constructed.

Trustees Bolebruch and Makrinos and I have attended several meetings with officials from other Villages and the Governor's team. At our last meeting on May 16th, the Governor's staff distributed the Draft SEQRA Scoping Document, which is supposed to be an outline of the entire third track project but instead related only to grade crossing eliminations. The verbiage on the third track itself is essentially "hype" with no detail or supporting statistics, leaving serious unanswered questions. For example:

- Where will the third track project actually start?
- How many neighboring areas will be affected by construction at the same time?
- Where will the construction equipment staging areas be located?
- What provable tangible economic value will this bring to Central Nassau County?
- Will the work on the Ronkonkoma tracks, the Jamaica switches and Third Track start

- simultaneously?
- Although they say no houses will be taken, where is the guarantee that will not change as construction goes forward to make room for the third track?

Scoping sessions were already held. Written comments can be submitted until 5:00 p.m. on June 13, which marks the close of the scoping period. Written comments can be submitted via the project website at www.AModernLI.com, or by mail to: Edward M. Dumas, Vice President, Market Development & Public Affairs, LIRR Expansion Project, MTA Long Island Railroad, MC 1131, Jamaica Station Building, Jamaica, NY 11435. I urge you to include your name and address on emails so that your message will not be discarded as anonymous. All comments received will become part of the public record and will be considered as part of the project studies.

POOL SEASON BEGINS SATURDAY, JUNE 11

The Garden City Pool will open for its 60th season of fun in the sun on Saturday, June 11th. The Pool bathhouses, which have not been renovated in more than three decades, are complete and include brand new shower stalls, two of which are handicap accessible. The restroom facilities for both men and women were also fully renovated. Further, the locker area is now connected to the shower area for an easier flow.

The Family Bathroom doubled in size and now includes a baby changing station and shower area, in addition to the already existing toilet and sink. There's also a brand new bathroom near the Adult Pool as well as a new First Aid Room.

New features to also debut this summer at the Pool include the sale of beer and wine at the Snack Bar on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as on the Fourth of July and Labor Day for members aged 23 or older. Due to the success of last year's "Member Appreciation Night," there will also be three "Party Under the Stars" events. The first one kicks off June 18 and will feature music from the popular Beatles tribute band, "The Liverpool Shuffle."

Also new this season is a Pool Enrichment Program for members and non-members ages 7 to 11 years old. The program, which kicks off in July, will offer age appropriate activities such as crafts, games, sports and swimming. Lunch will also be included. Sunset yoga, Date Night Movie Night, as well as several "Paint and Sip" events, will also be offered for the first time this season.

Want to become a member? Visit the Pool Office at Community Park or the Recreation Office at 108 Rockaway Avenue. You can also register online at www.gardencityrecreation.org.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

Regardless of the weather conditions during each school day for the past nine months, our school crossing guards have been at their designated posts to watch over our children. Please take a minute during the next few weeks to thank them for doing such a fine job to protect our young people.

FRIDAY NIGHT PROMENADES KICK OFF JUNE 17

Every Friday during the summer, beginning Friday, June 17, 2016, Seventh Street will be closed for the popular "Friday Night Promenades" from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The season kick-off will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Cherry Valley Country Club.

I encourage residents and visitors to make it a point to come down to Seventh Street to enjoy outdoor dining, restaurant specials, live entertainment, face painting, balloon animals and much more. Shops will remain open during the evening for your convenience.

Please be sure to check out this column each week to see what other fun activities are added to this exciting event every Friday evening.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. This meeting is held in the Board Room at Village Hall. I encourage all residents to attend Board of Trustees meetings so as to be thoroughly informed of Village issues from a first-hand perspective.