

April 8, 2016

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

LITTLE LEAGUE PARADE SATURDAY

This Saturday, April 9th, marks the opening of the 2016 Little League Baseball/Softball season. The annual Little League Parade will step off promptly at 9:00 a.m. at Tenth Street and Franklin Avenue and proceed south on Franklin Avenue to Seventh Street, west on Seventh Street to Hilton Avenue, north on Hilton Avenue to Stewart Avenue and east on Stewart Avenue to the Garden City Gazebo where Opening Day Ceremonies will be held.

I congratulate the Garden City Athletic Association on their 61st year and thank their officers, directors, managers, coaches and all that are involved in such a great volunteer organization. Not only do they touch the lives of so many youngsters they have been a valuable asset to our community. Please plan to attend the parade and give them and the players your support.

LIRR THIRD TRACK

As I have said many times, the Villages on the Main Line of the LIRR are all clearly opposed to the third track, which would run from Hicksville to Floral Park. Though LIRR authorities say that at this point no residences will be taken, it is hard to believe that this process would not be very disruptive to both the business community and residents.

There would need to be staging areas for heavy equipment and the tracks would now be very close to some homes. The cost of this project has not yet been determined but it will be in the mega millions. In the opinion of all the Mayors on the Main Line, there has been no clear evidence of economic benefit that would be worth the disruption to residents and businesses.

In all fairness, however, there have been meetings between Villages and teams of engineers who present different plans for the elimination of the grade crossings. Trustees John Delany and Stephen Makrinos and I attended a meeting in New Hyde Park Village Hall where these people presented several plans for the elimination of the Covert Avenue and New Hyde Park Road grade crossings. They were professional and quite willing to listen to suggestions from New Hyde Park and Garden City officials. However, it became clear at the end of the meeting that there was little chance these crossings would be eliminated without implementation of the third track plan. At the end of the session we thanked the Governor's staff but reiterated our opposition to this plan. Please help yourselves and your neighbors by emailing Governor Cuomo and registering your opposition to this project.

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 aims to decrease the access to unwanted or expired medication. 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 the drug crimes associated with this abuse.

NYS CHIPS FUNDING

I have been informed that although the New York State Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) itself was not increased, \$100 million was included under a program called PAVENEW YORK. These monies will be available to municipalities under the CHIPS formula. This is welcomed news as we continue to pay particular attention to road repairs in the 2016-2017 budget.

PROTECTING INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES

A bill that prohibits sex offenders from residing in community residences (group homes) passed the New York State Senate Tuesday by a vote of 50-9. A community residence is defined as any facility operated by or subject to licensure by the Office of Mental Health or the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities which provides a supervised residence or residential respite services for individuals with mental disabilities. The same bill introduced in the Assembly has not yet been voted on.

GARDEN CITY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION - FUN RUN/WALK FOR CHARITY

The Garden City Teachers' Association is conducting a 5K Run/Walk and a 1.5 Mile Fun Run/Walk for Charity (Garden City For a Cure) on Saturday, April 16, 2016.

The race route may interfere with ingress and egress from your driveway. Please review the route below so that you may make appropriate arrangements to avoid any inconvenience. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

At 8:45 a.m. the 1.5 mile Walk/Fun Run will begin in the vicinity of the intersection of Merillon Avenue and Oxford Blvd., adjacent to Garden City High School. It will then proceed southbound on Oxford Blvd. to Stewart Ave. where participants will make a U-turn around the center median. They

will then proceed northbound Oxford Blvd. to the high school, ending in the Garden City High School's West Parking Field.

At 9:15 a.m. the 5K Run/Walk will also start in the vicinity of the intersection of Merillon Avenue and Oxford Blvd., adjacent to the high school. It will then proceed southbound Oxford Blvd. to Stewart Ave. where participants will make a U-turn around the center median. They will then proceed northbound on Oxford Blvd. to westbound Newmarket Road, then to southbound Weyford Terrace, then to westbound Stratford Avenue, then to northbound Wickham Road, then to eastbound Newmarket Road to northbound Oxford Blvd. ending in the Garden City High School's West Parking Field.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting will be on Thursday, April 21, 2016. The meeting will be held in the Board Room at Village Hall. I encourage all residents to attend Board of Trustees meetings so that you can be informed of the many Village issues at hand.