August 4, 2017

GARDEN CITY UPDATE - NEWS AND INFORMATION

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As previously announced, the Board of Trustees and the Village Staff have embarked on new methods and procedures to communicate with members of our community, including our residents, commercial tenants and landlords, visitors, friends at Adelphi and local merchants. We are no longer publishing the “Mayor’s Column.” This weekly column is intended to advise our residents and community of matters that the Village is working on, events and other important information. And of course, please visit our website for additional information: www.gardencityny.net. We are constantly updating and making changes to the website in order to keep it relevant and provide new information. We also encourage you to attend Village Board of Trustees meetings. See the schedule of meetings on our website.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT DIGITIZATION PROJECT

To date, the vendor has scanned more than 100,000 documents. The vendor is still scanning older, delicate files which take more prep time to properly scan, however, the vendor is still on track in completing phase one within eight months or less, as required by the RFP. The scanning vendor is coordinating with the software vendor to ensure the files are properly tagged as required in order for the parcel software to upload the scanned documents in their appropriate locations.

The Department has also processed multiple F.O.I.L. (Freedom Of Information Law) requests and delivered them in digital format since the project has commenced. “The files have been well received by residents and contractors thus far,” Building Superintendent Ausberto Huertas, Jr. said.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT NEWLY RESTORED RAINBOW MONUMENT

Residents are cordially invited to attend the 100th Anniversary of the 42nd Division’s establishment and deployment from Camp Mills, which was located in the southeast area of Garden City during World War I.

A ceremony will be held at the newly restored Rainbow Division Memorial located on Saint James Street South Saturday, August 12, 2017 beginning at Noon.

Active and retired service members are encouraged to attend in uniform. A cake cutting ceremony will take place at a reception immediately following the ceremony at the Senior Center on Golf Club Lane.

“It really is going to be a very touching ceremony,” Deputy Mayor Theresa Trouvé said.

MULTI-USE FIELD RIBBON CUTTING

All major construction components of the Multisport Field Project have been completed. There is a short punch list of items to be completed by the contractor within the next week. Construction
fencing between Fields 3 & 4 will be removed as soon as the new sod is mature enough and playable.

The Board of Trustees is planning a ribbon cutting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 17, 2017. All are invited to attend. Soccer, lacrosse and football youth sports teams will also be present to highlight the evening. Staff is currently preparing the field use schedule, with usage to begin on or about August 16.

**WATER TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

The water tank project is moving forward and remains on track with our fall timeline. The bid specifications have been thoroughly vetted by the Village Engineering Department, the Village Attorney’s office and the Village’s water consultants, H2M. “We are satisfied with the specs that have been prepared. We are prepared to advertise next week,” Department of Public Works Superintendent Joe DiFrancisco said.

Highlights of note regarding this project include:

- Advertising bids for three water tank designs:
  - Single pedestal steel tank
  - Composite steel tank
  - Composite glass-fused to steel tank

The consultants feel that advertising three styles of tanks will help create competition between vendors and result in more favorable pricing.

- Bid specs will also be submitted to the Department of Health, as required
- The Village has made it a requirement of all bidders that only American-made steel be used in the construction of the tank

“Our neighbors in West Hempstead are also replacing their water tower. I have been in communication with the Superintendent of Public Works in West Hempstead and we have discussed this process,” Mr. DiFrancisco said. “We have agreed to continue sharing ideas and information as this process moves forward. I will also be reaching out to the Village of Mineola in order to start preparing for the use of their water tower during our construction project.”

The next public update is scheduled for the September Board of Trustees meeting. At that time Mr. DiFrancisco anticipates presenting the Mayor and the Board with the bid results and recommendations on how to proceed.

**WYE PARKING LOT ISSUES**

We are working on several issues and topics related to what is referred to as the “Wye” parking lot. This lot is located behind the Chamber of Commerce building on Seventh Street. Over the years, there have been numerous conversations and questions about legal ownership of this lot and rights of way and who has the responsibility to repair this lot because of its location adjacent to the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) tracks.

The lot appears to be made up of several deeds and parcels. We are working with Counsel and title companies to determine exact ownership and geographical boundaries as well as grant of
easements to third parties, including the LIRR, Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) and other utilities. It appears that the five lots composing the Wye lot were originally purchased in 1960 from the railroad.

This week we sent crews to the lot to clean up overgrowth, do asphalt repair work and make repairs to storm drains. We are considering re-paving the entire lot. We are also considering adding additional lighting. We are undertaking this work for obvious reasons, but also because we believe that making this lot more user-friendly could help alleviate parking problems in other lots, such as 7S located behind Walk Street, Burger Spot and Prost Grill & Garten and 7E located behind Neptune Camera.

**STEWART FIELD CLEANUP WORK**

As part of the Department of Recreation and Parks’ long-term capital plan and its normal operations, the Village is considering changes to Stewart Field. Last year we renovated the fenced in baseball field and added sprinkler systems to much of the entire Stewart Field, including the area that has been traditionally used by Thunder football. The grass areas have improved because of the irrigation.

The parking lot at Stewart Field is too small to handle parking needs and although the Stewart School parking lots are available we are considering changes to the field space. Our Recreation and Parks crews have commenced clearing away brush and vegetation that has accumulated over the years, especially at the north end of the field. To enhance parking needs, we may be able to add spaces at the north end of the field on the newly cleared space, as well as use what was formerly the Long Island Motor Parkway, with access through Russell Road. We may move or remove fencing or make an access gateway at that end of the field.

**AGGRESSIVE DRIVING ENFORCEMENT**

The Police Department has been conducting an aggressive driving enforcement program that has concentrated on violations such as, but not limited to, speeding, tailgating, reckless driving, passing a red traffic light or Stop sign, unsafe lane/turns, failure to yield and passing stopped school buses. During this campaign numerous tickets have been issued for these violations. Many of these vehicle stops for aggressive driving have resulted in vehicle impounds as well as arrests for drug possession, wanted persons, DWI offenses and serious traffic offenses.

Motorists are encouraged to be courteous to other drivers and not retaliate to other persons’ driving habits or mistakes. Road rage incidents often escalate into serious offenses such as assault or other serious offenses. As such, motorists observing serious and dangerous driving behaviors are encouraged to call 911 rather than take matters into their own hands. Motorists are also advised of state legislation enacted regarding Distracted Driving, which includes texting, using a mobile phone and activating or using any portable electronic device while driving. A person convicted of this offense will be assessed five points against their license.

In addition, the Garden City Police Department will be participating in the statewide initiative “Speed Enforcement Week Enforcement Mobilization” August 2-8. During this initiative, grant money will be utilized to fund extra speed enforcement patrols at predetermined locations in an effort to reduce vehicle crashes. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data indicates three out of 10 drivers speed. Statistics also show that nearly 30 percent of fatal crashes
list speed as a contributing factor. The Police Department urges all motorists to make our streets safer by obeying all traffic laws, particularly speeding.

“The Police Department will continue to make traffic enforcement a priority in an effort to make our streets safer,” Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson said.

BLOOD DRIVE

Long Island Blood Services will hold a blood drive in their Blood Mobile in front of the Garden City Public Library on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. All donors will receive an electronic voucher for two tickets to see the New York Mets at Citifield.

Eligible donors must be between 16 and 75 years of age, with a minimum weight of 110 lbs., and no tattoos within the past 12 months. Sixteen year olds must have parental permission and donors age 76 and over must present a doctor’s note. All donors must have valid ID with signature or photo. Donors are encouraged to eat well (low fat) and drink fluids. For medical questions concerning blood donations, call 1-800-688-0900. Call the Library at 742-8405 x210 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board of Trustees will meet once a month in August and September on Thursday, August 17, 2017 and Thursday, September 21, 2017. Both meetings will begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room. Residents are encouraged to attend.