

August 5, 2016

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

UPDATE ON LIRR MAIN LINE THIRD TRACK PROPOSAL

Although the LIRR has issued the Scoping Document and the public comment period is over, we continue to focus on this project. Recently, Trustee Bolebruch and I met with residents of Greenridge Avenue in the Western section of our Village. The homes on this street have backyards adjacent to the LIRR Main Line tracks. Understandably, these residents are very upset about the almost total lack of information coming from Governor Cuomo's representatives and the LIRR about their plans for construction of the third track. We listened carefully to the residents who then sent us emails listing their questions and legitimate concerns.

Subsequently, most of the Board of Trustees and I, along with Michael Murphy from the law firm of Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. and Village Counsel Peter Bee, attended a meeting with Governor Cuomo's representatives, Lisa Black and John McCarthy, himself a Garden City resident. Trustee Bolebruch and I presented the Greenridge Avenue residents' lists of questions and concerns to Ms. Black and Mr. McCarthy who offered no definitive responses at that time but said they would do so in the future. They also said that a Final Scoping Document is being prepared to answer questions raised by people during the initial public comment period. We certainly hope so.

Ms. Black and Mr. McCarthy also told us that the Draft Environmental Impact Study - which will not be finished until the end of 2016 at the earliest - would cover all the details of the Third Track Project and address items such as train delays, staging areas for construction equipment, local road closings and the construction schedule. Nonetheless, the consensus among your Board of Trustees is that to date the information from the Governors' representatives and the LIRR has been woefully inadequate concerning the details of this extremely massive project, its cost and the source of funds to pay for it.

As I have done many times before, at our meeting with Ms. Black and Mr. McCarthy, I firmly stated again, and they acknowledged, that everyone - including the LIRR President - agrees that the major problem with the LIRR is the antiquated switching system outside of Jamaica Station. Just recently, switching system breakdowns caused several very serious massive delays. Although Ms. Black indicated that \$500 million is being allocated to fix this problem, she presented absolutely no details about the specific replacement plans or when this critical project would start.

In my opinion, this is only one more reason why the so-called "planning" for a third track

with no real analysis of the factors justifying the effort, while leaving repair of the overall switching problem up in the air, makes no sense and is not acceptable.

As stated in the past, Garden City and Floral Park have retained the firm of Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. to review and critique the Scoping Document for the Third Track Project. Their very thorough report is on our Village website. Other Main Line Villages, including Westbury and New Hyde Park, have also retained attorneys to critique this document. Your Board of Trustees will continue to communicate with other affected Villages, monitor this project and report on any new developments.

INTERSECTION OF ROCKAWAY AND MERILLON AVENUES

On Thursday, July 28, I, along with Trustees Theresa Trouvé and Richard Silver and Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi, met with Nassau County Legislator Laura Schaefer, Nassau County Traffic Engineer Aryeh Lemberger and other County officials to discuss the intersection of Rockaway and Merillon Avenues. As you know, the configuration of this intersection has been a problem and matter of serious concern for many years because of the dangerous turns and approaches, coupled with speeding.

This is of utmost concern since Garden City High School is located at this intersection. Mr. Lemberger stated that all suggested options for improvement are “on the table,” including what we assume is a reconfiguration of the intersection. We made it clear to the County personnel, whose main goal appears to be efficient traffic movement, that our bottom-line concern is public safety and that the speed of traffic flow is secondary.

The meeting concluded cordially with Mr. Lemberger agreeing to get back to us as soon as the County arrived at some feasible alternatives to the existing configuration of the intersection.

BLOOD DRIVE AT THE GARDEN CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Long Island Blood Services will hold a blood drive in their Blood Mobile in front of the Garden City Public Library located at 60 Seventh Street, Garden City on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All donors will receive an electronic voucher for two tickets to see the New York Mets at Citi Field.

Area hospitals are in need of local residents’ help. Each donation can help to save up to three lives. 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 welcome.

NATIONAL GRID GAS MAIN UPGRADES

On or about Monday, August 8, 2016, National Grid will begin the installation of a new

gas main. The streets that will receive the new main will be Plattsdale Road, Vassar Street (from New Hyde Park Road to Edgemere Road) and Edgemere Road (from Vassar Street to Stewart Avenue). Small sections of new gas main will be installed and connected to existing mains on streets off of Dartmouth Street. This project is expected to take three to four months to complete.

FRIDAY NIGHT PROMENADES

Every Friday during the summer Seventh Street will be closed for the popular “Friday Night Promenades” from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

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

Remaining promenade dates (and themes) are as follows:

Aug 5: Aloha Luau

Aug 12: Country Western

Aug 19: Swing Into Seventh (Big Band)

Aug 26: Sock Hop and Doo-Wop

Sept. 2: Peace, Love & Music (Woodstock Revisited)

Sept 9: The 80s

Sept 16: Garden City Spirit

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

CONCERT AT GAZEBO

Once again, compliments are due to the Recreation Department for arranging the 2016 season's outstanding Concert Series at the Village Gazebo, located on the Village Green at the corner of Stewart and Hilton Avenues.

Next week's program is scheduled for Thursday, August 11, and will feature North Shore Pops. From Gershwin to Broadway with patriotic themed songs in between, this group is sure to delight.

The program will begin at 7:15 p.m. and admission is free. Please bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a very pleasant evening. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be held at the Cultural and Performing Arts Center at Cluett Hall at St. Paul's School. Please call the Recreation Office at 465-4075 if you have any questions pertaining to the concert.

GARDEN CITY SEEKING NEW MEMBERS FOR THE SPECIAL POLICE

The Garden City Special Police are comprised of residents who choose to give of their free time and energy by volunteering to help maintain the quality of life in Garden City. Their

commitment to excellence and dedication to the community helps to give our Village a higher level of safety and security to its residents.

The Special Police help the community by providing crowd control at parades, traffic control at fairs and assisting pedestrians at crossings. They also assist the Police Department during special events by providing extra patrols.

Please consider becoming a member of the Garden City Special Police force. If you are a Village resident, 18 years of age or older and interested in giving a little back to our community that provides for us and our children, call (516) 742-9603.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

During the summer the Board of Trustees will meet only one time each month. The date for the Board Meeting in August is Thursday, August 18th at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Board Room at Village Hall. I hope that you will be able to attend the meeting in August and future meetings so that you can become involved with your Village.