

October 12, 2022

**THE MAYOR'S UPDATE**  
[cveneziale@gardencityny.net](mailto:cveneziale@gardencityny.net)

**LEAD TESTING**

Residents interested in testing their water for lead can call 465-4017 and leave a message with their name, address and contact number. The voicemail is then emailed to the Village's water consultant, H2M, who can drop off empty sample bottles to said resident's home for lead testing. H2M can also pick up the bottles. Drop offs and pick ups occur once a week each, on the same days every week.

**ENERGY AUDIT**

I have requested that an energy audit of all occupied Village buildings to determine if any potential energy conservation measures can be implemented. Moreover, the Village Administrator and Buildings Superintendent will confirm if the Village can apply for NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) or PSEG programs that may include Photovoltaic power systems. Given the increased cost of electricity and fossil fuels we need to avail the Village to all energy conservation measures available.

**GOOD POLICE WORK**

Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson and Nassau County District Attorney Anne T. Donnelly have announced that a Maryland man was arrested for allegedly stealing \$45,000 from a Garden City resident as part of an email scam. The 50-year-old defendant, a dual national of the United States and Nigeria, was arraigned on a felony complaint on a charge of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree (a D felony). If convicted of the charge, the defendant faces a potential maximum of two and one-third years to seven years in prison.

“Email account take over scams in which residents lose money are difficult to solve as the subjects often reside out-of-state or out-of-country. This case is a good example of detectives conducting a thorough investigation, developing leads, and identifying a subject within the United States. Detectives were then able to make an arrest in conjunction with the Nassau County District Attorney’s office,” Commissioner Jackson said.

Commissioner Jackson said that between October 8-12, 2021 a resident of Garden City sent two electronic wires for \$45,000 total to a person he believed to be his real estate attorney. The defendant, allegedly acting in concert with two other individuals, allegedly recruited an individual to receive the stolen money into that person’s bank account, and then obtained the proceeds of the fraud. The defendant surrendered to detectives at Garden City Police Headquarters on Friday, September 30. If you’re about to wire a large sum of money, Commissioner Jackson suggests you first:

- ✓ Review email addresses carefully for deviations in the sender’s name or domain name and ensure that transaction details, including account numbers or payment options, haven’t changed.
- ✓ Follow up any email communications or text messages with a phone call before any money is exchanged.
- ✓ Be sure to use previous contact information for the person, not information received during the course of your email chain, which could be hacked.
- ✓ Look out for any changes in normal business procedures, including an individual using a personal email address or making suspicious requests.
- ✓ Be aware of any changes in language or speech pattern, including unusual grammar mistakes, formality, or informality, in the communications requesting money.

Scammers will emphasize urgency in their request for money. Pay attention to common phrases like “time is of the essence” or “I need you to take care of this ASAP” or language threatening that a deal may fall through if immediate action to transfer money isn’t taken. If you believe you may have sent money to someone who has defrauded you, contact your financial institution immediately, which may be able to stop or reverse the transaction and recover some or all of your money.

### **LIRR THIRD TRACK UPDATE**

As the LIRR Expansion Project continues to near its completion, residents and commuters can expect to see final project elements taking shape, as well as changes in train service while the LIRR continues its work along the Main Line corridor. At the Merillon Avenue Station, ongoing punch list work continues, including installation of permanent handrails and platform barriers. Further, this month crews are also installing snow melt under the north and south side platforms.

### **FIRE PREVENTION DAY 2022**

The Garden City Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week, October 9-15, 2022. The Department is hosting its annual Open House in support of this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Fire won’t wait. Plan your escape,” on Sunday, October 16th from 12 noon until 3:00 p.m. at Garden City Fire Headquarters. “It’s important for everyone to plan and practice a home fire escape. Everyone needs to be prepared in advance, so that they know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. Given that every home is different, every home fire escape plan will also be different,” said Chief Matthew Pearn. “Have a plan for everyone in the home. Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them!” The Garden City Fire Department wants to share these key home fire escape planning tips:

- Make sure your plan meets the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home where everyone should meet.
- Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the household, including guests. Practice at least once during the day and at night.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities in Garden City, please contact the Garden City Fire Department on Facebook or [www.gcfdnny.com](http://www.gcfdnny.com) For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and fire prevention in general, visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org) and [sparky.org](http://sparky.org).