

December 2, 2020

THE MAYOR'S UPDATE

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Village Hall and the administrative offices are open for in-person inquiries and business, and all full-time staff has returned to the on-site workplace. Office hours are between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Visitors are required to wear a face covering, maintain social distancing of six feet and sign in to a Visitor's Log outside of the office they are visiting. Furthermore, while multiple people can enter Village Hall, only one person will be admitted into each office space at a time and are asked to abide by employee instructions.

VILLAGE AWARDED GRANT FROM CARES ACT FUNDING

COVID-19 related expenditures have surpassed \$300,000 since the onset of this pandemic in March. Village Treasurer Irene Woo and her staff have been working with FEMA and the Town of Hempstead in applying for reimbursements of these expenditures. Representatives from the Town of Hempstead recently notified Ms. Woo that the Hempstead Town Board approved a reimbursement grant to the Village in the amount of \$221,000 via the CARES Act to help offset COVID-19 related expenditures.

"It is a significant amount of money," Mayor Theresa Trouvé said. "I'd like to thank Town Supervisor Don Clavin for his efforts. It is satisfying to know this came through our weekly Zoom meetings, where he listens to the needs of the various Villages within his township."

The Village has had to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) not only for its employees, but for visitors to Village facilities as well. We have had to hire outside companies to spray down Village facilities and heavily used vehicles with disinfectants, especially police cars. The Village also submitted a \$40,000 reimbursement request to FEMA but to date has not received any monies.

Ms. Woo will continue working with FEMA and the Town of Hempstead in submitting applications and all required documentation to continue applying for cost reimbursements associated with COVID-19 incurred through December 31, 2020, when the time frame to make such requests ends. "I am happy to report that the Town approved our first grant request," Ms. Woo said. "Since early August we've been working with the Town of Hempstead. We've submitted applications and hundreds of pages of supporting documents. We anticipate receiving the reimbursement funds within this fiscal year."

COMMITTEE ON NEW YORK STATE POLICE REFORM

Back in May, the Governor's Executive Order No. 203, the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative, directed each local government entity with a police agency operating with police officers to perform a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures and practices, and develop a plan to improve such deployments, strategies, policies, procedures and

practices for the purposes of addressing the particular needs of the communities serviced, promoting community engagement to foster trust, fairness and legitimacy and addressing any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color.

“It’s been a great success so far,” Mayor Trouvé said. “We’ve had four meetings. We’ve been thinking carefully about going through our codes and making sure they are where they should be. It’s good to take a look at yourself once in a while.”

Mayor Trouvé formed the Committee to assist the Village in the development and implementation of this process. Members include:

- Theresa Trouvé, Mayor, Village of Garden City
- Ali Ajamu, Deputy Bureau Chief, D.A.’s Office
- Mark Hyer, Trustee, Village of Garden City
- Kenneth Jackson, Commissioner, GCPD
- Steven Braun, Inspector, GCPD
- Ralph Suozzi, Village Administrator, Garden City
- Donald Brudie, Central POA
- Nancy Minett, Estates POA
- Lauren Scarantino, East POA
- Nicholas Vernice, West POA
- Rev. Earl Y. Thorpe, Jr., Pastor, Church-in-the-Garden
- Alan Schwartz, Law Offices of Alan J. Schwartz

CHILDREN’S ROOM PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETING

A kick-off meeting for the Garden City Library’s Children’s Room renovation project brought together representatives of H2M Architects and Engineers, Library Director Marianne Malagon, Library Board Chairman Randy Colahan, Building Superintendent Giuseppe Giovanniello and Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi. Work schedules and timelines were established during the meeting and a site visit took place on Tuesday, November 24. “It was a very productive meeting,” Mr. Suozzi said.

The Children’s Room has not been updated since the Library was built more than 45 years ago. In July, Trustees unanimously approved the approximate \$845,000 redesign project, which also includes the adjacent Circulation Desk area. A total of \$600,000 has been allocated in the Village’s 2020-21 Capital Budget while another \$105,000 has been transferred from contingency. Ms. Malagon secured \$200,000 in State and Municipal grants (one offered through Senator Kevin Thomas’ office in the amount of \$150,000 and another offered through Assemblyman Ed Ra’s office in the amount of \$50,000). These monies, coupled with \$140,000 Deferred Revenue from Legislative Bullet Aid received over five years from former Senator Kemp Hannon’s office, represent 40 percent of project funding. Funds in the Library’s special reserve fund for capital improvements will be made available for any cost overrun.

H2M Architects and Engineers presented the redesign via a public Zoom meeting in July. Saverio Belfiore, AIA, CSI, said the open floor plan promotes circulation and collaborative thinking. The floor plan includes construction of a new circulation desk, installation of new carpet flooring in the main lobby, establishing areas in the Children's Room specifically designed for different age groups, creation of a collaborative environment in the Workshop/STEAM room to house various functions, creation of a dedicated reading room and a seating area for parents, construction of a new Children's reference desk and relocation of the Children's office.

CONCRETE REPLACEMENT

St. James Street South - Washington Avenue to Clinton Road: Road Work Ahead (RWA) continues concrete repairs/replacement on the north side of St. James Street South. Work is progressing from Clinton Road to Washington Avenue. Temporary road closures may occur to allow work to be done. Road is accessible for emergency vehicles.

John Street – St. James Street North to Stewart Avenue: Road Work Ahead (RWA) also began concrete replacement on John Street. The contractor began on the west side of the road at St. James Street North and is progressing towards Stewart Avenue. If you are a homeowner that has received a notice, and your apron is scheduled for replacement, please remove your car from your driveway before 8:00 AM and park on the opposite side of the street. Temporary road closures may occur to allow work to be done. Road is accessible for emergency vehicles. This schedule is subject to change and is weather permitting.

EDGEMERE FIREHOUSE COMMITTEE'S ALTERNATE PLAN

The Western Property Owners Association's Firehouse Committee presented an alternate plan for the Edgemere Road satellite station during a special meeting of the Board of Trustees Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at Cluett Hall. Several members of the 8-person Committee, including residents Remy Bernardo, TJ Michon and Cosmo Veneziale, discussed different aspects of their proposal, which "saves, restores and transforms" the 90-year-old building. Representatives from Cameron Engineering and PKAD Architecture & Design, the Village's hired architect, were also in attendance. The WPOA Firehouse Committee presentation can be viewed in full at www.justthefactsmedia.com. To view PKAD's February 2020 presentation, as well as read Cameron Engineering's Facility Conditions Analysis Reports, visit the Village's website, www.gardencityny.net, and click the respective links under the Fire Department tab located on the left side of the homepage.

LEAF COLLECTION

The Street Department completed picking up leaves in Estates North and immediately began leaf collection in Estates South this week. December 1, 2020 was the last day landscapers could put leaves out in the street. The Recreation and Parks Department is responsible for leaf removal in the Central Section. The Department typically has four

crews doing leaf pick up each day. One crew works First Street to Third Street, the second works Fourth to Sixth, and the third works back from Old Country Road down to Ninth Street. Crew number four does the short streets, dead ends, commercial areas and Franklin Court. When a crew finishes their section, they revert back to the starting point and repeat the process over again.