

August 21, 2024

Many residents have contacted us regarding safety concerns surrounding 7th Street on Friday nights. Based on those concerns and reports from our Police Department of several incidents of unruly and dangerous youth behavior, we ask residents to refrain from dropping off unattended minors downtown on Friday evenings and share this message with other parents.

Despite extensive efforts during the last few weeks and last summer, the Village continues to experience excessive crowds in the downtown area on Friday nights, which poses a public safety risk to the community. The most significant concern is keeping young people and the entire community safe, and we are working hard to identify the best ways to do that.

We are not alone as many have heard of similar crowd issues on Long Island and across the country.

We recognize the importance of having places for young people to go to socialize, but we have a responsibility to keep gatherings, especially on Village property, safe. To maintain a safe environment, we have established rules for closing many areas around the business district at dusk and adding enhanced lighting in targeted areas. On Friday night, there will be an extensive police presence in the downtown area. Police will strictly enforce all laws, and backpack checks may be considered.

Please help by sharing the message that there is no outdoor event in the business district on Friday night. We welcome residents and visitors to dine in our wonderful restaurants, many of which include designated outdoor dining areas. We hope these steps ensure we continue to have the vibrant and safe downtown we all enjoy.

JULY POLICE ACTIVITY

During the month of July, the Garden City Police Department responded to 2,199 service calls:

- 70 case investigations
- 27 arrests
- 166 medical calls
- 67 traffic accidents
- 1,153 moving violations
- 1,928 parking tickets
- 13 appearance tickets
- 22 vehicle impounds

ST. PAUL'S FIELDS UPDATE

Recreation and Parks crews are prepping to open up the section of the St. Paul's fields that has been closed for approximately a year. Another area on the north side of the field will close for a year to do perform aeration and deep toning. Next spring, pre-emergent crabgrass will also be applied to the closed area. The next step is removal of the baseball field in the northwest corner of the property, which primarily served as a practice field for Garden City Middle School teams. This will give us more flexibility to move fields around when necessary. Crews will also be sodding the goal areas on both soccer and lacrosse fields. This proved successful last year.

HEDGES BLOCKING SIDEWALKS

Following numerous complaints about overgrown shrubs interfering with residents' enjoyment of our sidewalks, especially during these warm days of summer, here is another reminder about our sidewalk policy. Please take the time to reach out to the Village to report these obstructions as this is a great help to us! According to Recreation Commissioner Paul Blake, the Department has sent approximately 18 letters to non-compliant residents over the last three weeks. Any troublesome areas have been taken care of, Mr. Blake said.

The Village policy is as follows: Under our Village code (<https://ecode360.com/9146782#9146782>) homeowners are prohibited from allowing hedges to overflow onto sidewalks. Residents not in compliance with the code will receive letters and be given 10 days to correct the condition. If the condition is not corrected in that timeframe, the Village will send out a crew to do the work and then bill the homeowner. To report hedges overflowing onto our Village sidewalks, please call the Recreation & Parks Department, (516) 465-4075.

RECREATION BUS HAS ARRIVED!

The Blue Bird bus arrived Friday, August 9 and will be put to use this month! For everyone's comfort the bus is air conditioned. We will get a lot of use out of that bus. The Village applied for CREST (Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology Program) grant monies through Senator Kevin Thomas' office for the purchase of the 44-passenger bus.

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Bubble Bus at Edgemere Park

MONDAY, AUGUST 26 1:30 P.M. Movie Matinée: *One Life* at the Library

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 6:30 p.m. Architectural Design Review Board meeting at Village Hall

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29 3:00 p.m. Storytime with H2M Architect at the Library. Must register.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30 11:00 a.m. Gardening Grow Bags with Chris Buchman at the Library. Must register.