

September 4, 2024

What makes our Village so special? While many reference the outstanding schools, the beautiful tree-lined street, and our wonderful recreational and cultural programing, it is the strong community ties that draw so many of us to the village and keep us here.

As a successful Pool season comes to an end, residents focus on activities to enjoy around town during the fall. While there are many which will be highlighted in this column, I want to draw attention to a great program started by some of our talented young residents and the outdoor chess tournament scheduled for Friday, September 27th at 3:30 p.m. on the front lawn of the Garden City Library. Whether you are interested in competing or would like to come to watch, it is an example of young residents enriching our community and investing their time into what makes our village so special!

Chess4Community, the first volunteer chess program in Garden City, was founded by Mannat Jain, along with his sister Amanat and younger brother Armaan. The program started at the Garden City Senior Center in September 2022 and expanded to the Public Library in January 2023. Their mission, "paying this cultural and generational debt forward by teaching Seniors Chess," required the Jain siblings to carefully establish the program's framework and ensure its sustainability. The siblings all have FIDE/USCF Chess Ratings and started playing chess at age 5.

The program's first tournament was held in November 2022, with prizes awarded by Garden City High School Principal Kevin Steingruebner. In September 2023, Chess4Community returned with an E-Learning Chess Course for seniors. Mannat and Amanat led the marketing efforts, creating posters and managing social media, which generated significant community interest. The siblings' dedication was evident in their professional handling of logistics and their ability to extend sessions due to high engagement.

A second tournament was held on October 27, 2023, with prizes presented by Deputy Mayor Lawrence Marciano and Trustee Michele Beach Harrington. In February 2024, the Jain siblings launched the "Play & Learn" program at both the Senior Center and Public Library, further enriching seniors' lives through interactive chess sessions.

This month, Chess4Community will host its first multigenerational chess tournament on September 27, 2024, marking the start of their third season and fulfilling their vision of uniting the community through chess. To participate, please register through the Library online via Eventkeeper (www.gardencitypl.org). To learn more about Chess4Community, following on Instagram at @chess4community.

NON-RESIDENT RAILROAD PARKING PERMIT INFORMATION: STEWART MANOR & NASSAU BLVD.

The Non-Resident Parking Permit application process will be done via a lottery this year. If you are interested in purchasing a permit, please mail or bring the following items to Garden City Village Hall, 351 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, New York 11530 no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, September 20, 2024.

- Completed, signed Non-Resident Railroad Parking Application (The requested Railroad Station – Stewart Manor or Nassau Boulevard must be selected)
- Check in the amount of \$500 made payable to the Incorporated Village of Garden City
- Copy of valid vehicle registration for the car to be used in the parking lot

Please note that as in past years, there is a limit of two parking permits per household. All winners of Non-Resident parking permits will be notified by email on September 23, 2024. Parking permits are effective for

the period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. If you have any questions, please call (516) 465-4166. Applications can be mailed to the Finance Department at the above address or dropped off at Village Hall during business hours Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. Drop off done after business hours or on weekends may be placed in the drop box located to the right of the front door of Village Hall.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY SERIES: SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES

It's that time of year again; summer vacation is over and schools are reopening. With that in mind, the Garden City Police Department has assembled a four-part series of articles to address back-to-school safety issues. Part One will address "Safe Driving Practices," Part Two "School Bus Safety," Part Three "Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety," and Part Four "Stranger Danger." When schools open in the morning and close in the afternoon, the areas around schools are very busy and crowded. Parents and other adults can do much to improve traffic safety around our schools by driving cautiously, teaching their children safe practices, and limiting vehicle trips. In some cases, parents and other adults may be the cause of safety concerns. Drivers should obey all traffic laws and apply the following safety practices.

Back-to-School Safe Driving Practices:

- When dropping off or picking up children at school, avoid parking on the opposite side of the street from the school. If you must park on the opposite side of the street, NEVER call your children to your car. Always meet them on the school side of the road and walk them to your vehicle. Also, talk with them about what to do if you are not there on time.
- Make sure children are careful opening car doors. Children should always get in and out of your vehicle through the rear curbside door.
- Drivers should not double park or block traffic. Parking or waiting in red zones, such as disabled parking areas and no-stopping zones, is prohibited.
- Do not block school buses or use areas designated for buses only.
- Never stop or park in a crosswalk or within the posted crosswalk "No Parking" area. Students and other pedestrians rely on the crosswalk and need the visibility that the posted no-parking buffer provides to cross the street safely.
- Do not violate the law by using the excuse "I'll just be here for a minute" when picking up or dropping off students.
- U-turns are illegal within school zones. Avoid turning around in neighboring driveways. It is hard enough to see children and even harder when you are backing up or making U-turns.
- When backing up from a driveway or garage, be aware that children may be walking or bicycling to or from a school or school bus.
- Never leave a child of any age in a vehicle without adult supervision. A small child may rapidly suffer dehydration, heat exhaustion, and consequent organ failure. Older children could play games that may lead to tragedy.
- Learn the traffic patterns at the schools to avoid being a disruption.
- SLOW DOWN! You are free to drive even slower than the posted school zone speed limit and should always be considered when conditions warrant it, such as heavy rain, snow, fog, icy roads, darkness, or heavy traffic conditions.
- NEVER pass a stopped school bus when its red flashing lights are on. Whether you are behind the bus or approaching from the opposite direction, you must come to a complete stop and remain stopped until the warning lights are off. Be advised that many buses are now equipped with cameras, which may result in violators receiving tickets for passing a stopped school bus.

Motorists should keep in mind that young children usually see and hear differently than adults. Children only have two-thirds of the peripheral vision adults have, and they have difficulty determining the source of a sound. They are still learning to judge distance and speed. When a car is approaching them, they cannot accurately judge how fast it travels or how long it will take to cover the distance. Children generally focus on

one thing at a time. If they are playing with friends or riding bikes, it is unlikely they will be aware of your vehicle. Children are spontaneous and have trouble stopping an action once started. Children also tend to overestimate their abilities, thinking they can run across a street before the light changes or a car approaches. If parents and other motorists make it a habit to incorporate these safe practices into their routines, the risk of injury or death to anyone in the school zone will be significantly reduced.

SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Chief James Taunton and the Officers and Members of the Garden City Volunteer Fire Department would like to invite all Village residents to join the Department for its annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Village 9/11 Memorial located at the Village Green & Gazebo, at the corner of Hilton and Stewart avenues. The remembrance service will be held Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. The service pays tribute to the 23 Garden City residents who perished during the attack on the World Trade Center, the 343 members of the FDNY, 23 members of the NYPD and 37 members of the PAPD killed, as well as those who have died of 9/11-related illnesses.

GOLD LIGHTS FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER AWARENESS

The Village has a display of gold lights at the Gazebo on the Village Green to raise awareness of pediatric cancers for Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month. Lighting of the gold tree will take place Wednesday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m. Lanterns will be sold at the tree lighting. All proceeds will benefit the Mary Ruchalski Foundation for Pediatric Cancer Research.

POOL CHAT GROUP EVERY THURSDAY

Miss your Pool friends? Garden City Recreation and Parks presents a GC Pool Chat Group. Continue the season (without the Pool) at the Senior Center every Thursday afternoon, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. All are welcome!

GARDEN CITY LIBRARY RESUMES SUNDAY HOURS

The Garden City Public Library resumed Sunday hours on Sunday, September 8, 2024. The Library will open on Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. You can visit the Library 24/7 at www.gardencitypl.org to access online services such as electronic databases and downloadable eBooks, audiobooks and periodicals.

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 1:30 p.m. Monday Movie Matinée: *Ezra* at the Library

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 6:45 p.m. Library Board of Trustees Meeting at the Library

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 11:00 a.m. Learn how to use Library services like Libby, Hoopla and Flipster at the Library. Must register.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 7:00 p.m. The Garden City FD will host its 9/11 remembrance ceremony at the September 11, 2001 monument on the Village Green

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 7:00 p.m. Make friendship bracelets for community service at the Library. Must register.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 7:30 p.m. Recreation Commission Meeting at the Senior Center

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 9:00 a.m. Adult Art class at Cluett Hall. Ten-week program. Must register at the Rec office on Rockaway Ave or, if you have a password, online at gcreconline.net.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 1:00 p.m. The Carlyle Players will perform *Now and Then* at the Library

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 7:00 p.m. Lighting of the gold tree on the Village Green in honor of Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 11:15 a.m. Travel presentation at the Senior Center for a “Southern Charm” trip, taking place April 21-27 to Charleston, Savannah and Jekyll Island through AAA and Collette Tours

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 3:30 p.m. Multigenerational chess tournament on the Library lawn. Sign up at www.gardencitypl.org.