

October 2, 2024

Are you a resident interested in joining our volunteer fire department? Whether you want to meet neighbors who dedicate their time to this important cause, your kids are fascinated by fire trucks, or you're eager to learn more about fire safety, this Sunday is the perfect opportunity! Join us at the Fire Department between 12:00 and 2:30 for our annual Fire Prevention Day!

The event will feature exciting activities for all ages, including:

- Fire truck tours and demonstrations
- Hands-on fire safety for kids
- Informative sessions on emergency preparedness
- Meet-and-greet with our dedicated volunteer firefighters

Our volunteer fire department is made up of your neighbors—students, executives, lawyers, nurses, accountants, and more! These amazing individuals come together for top-notch training to keep our community safe while building camaraderie and having fun. Serving in this meaningful way while forming lifelong friendships is just one of the many reasons Garden City is such a wonderful place to live. We hope to see you on Sunday!

#### **PAUL BLAKE**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Garden City community, I presented a citation to Paul Blake, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs, during Old Timers Day at Tullamore Park September 28. Paul first worked as a part-time Department employee back in 1971. That job soon turned into a full-time career as Recreation Superintendent until 2001. When the Village re-hired him in 2019 he continued in this capacity. In total, he's been a member of the Garden City Recreation team for 35 years and counting. The citation acknowledges Paul's remarkable creativity and innovative thinking in creating and managing programs as well as providing mentorship that fosters talent and provides support to staff at all levels. His expertise has been instrumental in the formation of a recreational survey created to gauge the Village's many recreational needs for a Recreation and Parks Master Plan. Congratulations Paul, and thank you for your years of dedication to this community.

#### **MAIL THEFT**

The Garden City Police Department is warning residents about an increase in stolen mail throughout the Village and Nassau County. These thefts occur from residential USPS mailboxes at all times of the day and night. According to Commissioner Jackson, in most cases, thieves use a weighted object covered with a sticky substance attached to a string to retrieve mail from mailboxes. This method allows them to easily pull out envelopes and packages. The thieves usually look for checks where they wash out the ink and add new amounts and recipients' names before cashing. Commissioner Jackson states that "stolen postal keys are often used to open mailboxes and requests residents notify the Department if they observe non-postal office persons removing mail from a mailbox.

These thefts are not only a violation of privacy, but they can also lead to identity theft and financial loss for the victims. Commissioner Jackson is urging residents to take precautions to protect their mail and recommends the following safeguards:

- Place mail in receptacles inside the Post Office, or hand your outgoing mail directly to your mail carrier.

- Do not send cash in the mail.
- Use “secure” checks that are difficult to alter.
- Use black gel pens when writing checks; gel ink bonds better than regular ink with the fibers of paper checks, making it harder to wash off or alter.
- If dropping your mail in a mailbox, drop your mail as close as possible to the collection time listed on the mailbox.
- Do not drop mail in the mailbox if you see any sticky substances on the box.
- Promptly retrieve delivered mail from your mailbox to avoid theft.

The Garden City Police Department is working to investigate these thefts and increase patrols in affected areas. He is also reminding residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity in the vicinity of mailboxes to the Police Department. Commissioner Jackson states, “The safety and security of this community is a top priority for this department, and we are committed to taking action to prevent further incidents.” Residents are encouraged to contact the Garden City Police Department at (516) 465-4100 with any information or concerns regarding these thefts. Together, we can work to keep our community safe and prevent these crimes from happening in the future.

### **AIRCRAFT NOISE**

Have you experienced an appreciable increase in aircraft noise? It is most likely due to planes arriving at JFK on runway 22L. A 2021 FAA study concluded that the “US public perception of aviation noise” has substantially changed since 2015. More than 50% of people subjected to 60 decibels of aircraft noise are “highly annoyed.” From June - August 2024, runway 22L averaged over 10,000 arrivals each month, more than double the volume of any other arrival runway. To register a complaint, the Town Village Aircraft Safety and Noise Abatement Committee (TVASNAC) encourages residents to file out this form or call the Airport Noise Complaint Line 800-225-1071. Encourage your neighbors to register their complaints. Multiple complaints from a single household are often registered as only a single complaint.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY SERIES – PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY**

This is part three of the four-part series of articles by the Garden City Police Department addressing Back to School safety issues. We addressed safe driving practices and school bus safety in the previous two articles. If you missed either of these articles, you can stop by the Garden City Police Department and pick up a copy. This week’s article will cover Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety.

#### **Pedestrian Safety:**

- Children should not walk while talking on a cell phone or texting.
- Students walking to or from school should always use sidewalks when available and walk on the inside edge of the sidewalk farthest away from traffic. If a sidewalk is unavailable, pedestrians are encouraged to walk in a single file as close to the edge of the roadway as practical. You should also walk against the traffic flow so that oncoming cars are visible.
- Research has shown that until your child is at least eight years old, you should hold their hand on the sidewalk and in parking lots. Furthermore, you should hold their hand until they are ten years old while crossing the street.
- Teach your children to be defensive and NEVER assume that a driver sees them.
- Always LOOK in all directions before crossing the street, LEFT, then RIGHT, then LEFT again. NEVER run into the street.
- Avoid crossing the streets at mid-blocks, especially when parked cars may obstruct vision. Cross at stop signs, traffic signals, crosswalks, or where crossing guards are present.
- When crossing a street, NEVER assume a green light or WALK signal means it is safe to cross the street. Remember; LOOK LEFT, then RIGHT, then LEFT again before crossing.
- Remove earphones when preparing to cross the street. You may not be able to hear approaching traffic.

- Only follow others across the street once you have checked for yourself that it is safe to cross.
- Walk the route to school with your child and discuss safe practices. Teach your children about traffic laws and encourage them to ask questions when unsure what to do.
- Crossing Guards are posted near schools to assist children and others in crossing the street safely. Disregarding the signals and directions of crossing guards is a violation of New York State Law.
- Teach your children to obey all directions given to them by crossing guards. This includes crossing only when directed and no running or riding bicycles at crossings.

### **Bicycle Safety:**

- Persons riding bicycles are subject to the same laws as motorists.
- All bicyclists and passengers under the age of fourteen are required to wear approved bicycle helmets when riding a bicycle.
- Regardless of what the law requires, the Garden City Police Department recommends that ALL operators and passengers wear bicycle helmets. According to the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute, nearly 97% of all bicyclists killed in accidents were not wearing a helmet. Parents should set a good example and wear helmets.
- Teach your children how to ride a bicycle and practice riding in a safe location without cars. It is essential for children to learn how to signal, turn, slow down, and stop without falling. Hand signals for bicyclists are the same as for motorists.
- Teach your children to be defensive when riding and NEVER assume a driver sees them.
- Bicyclists should carefully look in all directions for vehicles, other bicyclists, and pedestrians. They should also take extra care when nearing intersections or driveways where vehicles may be turning.
- Children should walk their bicycles across intersections.
- Bicycles should be ridden in bicycle lanes when available or as close to the right edge of the roadway as practical in the same direction as traffic.
- Ride your bicycle in a single file only.
- Never use a bicycle to carry more people than it was designed to carry, and never ride anyone on the handlebars. Wear bright-colored clothing when riding a bicycle and ensure the bike has proper reflectors. DO NOT ride a bicycle while wearing earphones, talking, or texting on a phone. It is illegal to wear more than one earphone while riding a bike.

### **A bicycle must be equipped with the following:**

- a) Brakes that are capable of making the tires skid on dry-level pavement.
- b) A bell, horn, or other device that can be heard at least a hundred feet away; sirens and whistles are NOT permitted.
- c) Bicycles driven between a half-hour after sunset and a half-hour before sunrise must be equipped with a white front headlight visible in darkness for at least 500 feet and a red taillight visible for at least 300 feet.
- d) When purchased new and/or driven at night, a bicycle must have reflective tires or wide-angle spoke-mounted reflectors. The reflectors must be colorless or amber for the front wheels and colorless or red for the rear wheels.

The Garden City Police Department encourages residents to incorporate these safe practices into their lives to make this school year safe.

### **HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6** 12:00 p.m. Fire Prevention and Open House at Fire Headquarters

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6** 1:00 p.m. Family Fall Festival at the Garden City Bird Sanctuary

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 7** 1:30 p.m. Movie Matinée: *A Good Year* at the Library

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 7** 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball at the Field House. Nominal fee.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8** 9:30 a.m. Adult Pickleball at the Field House. Nominal fee.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8** 7:00 p.m. Yoga with Kimberly at the Library. Must register.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9** 4:00 p.m. Grades K-5 Backpack Craft at the Library. Must register.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10** 7:30 p.m. Recreation Commission Meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10** 7:30 p.m. Adult Volleyball at the Field House. Nominal fee.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16** 4:00 p.m. STEAM Club For First Graders at the Library. Must register.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16** 6:30 p.m. Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at Village Hall

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20** 2:00 p.m. Halloween-themed event at Cluett Hall. Wear your costume.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25** 7:00 p.m. Mini Golf Halloween Party at Community Park. Nominal fee.