

June 4, 2025

As we approach the middle of June all sorts of activities are percolating across the Village, including the terrific Nassau County Challenger Games at Mitchel Field last Friday. I attended a kick-off event, watched some races and visited the Garden City School District tent. What a super group we had representing our Village: tons of boys and girls competing, lots of Moms and Dads, coaches and teachers from our various schools and well over 50 volunteers from Garden City High. Also, the backbone of the operation, our outstanding SEPTA group was out in force. Talk about a warm, motivated and dedicated crew....WOW! Continued good works were evident but we should all take a moment to reflect on how we can support this crucial program. Additionally, the GCHS Girls and Boys Lacrosse teams are competing for Long Island championships; the Varsity baseball team had a great year as did all of our student athletes across the district. Other highlights are touched upon below.

VERY IMPORTANT FYI: We need a huge turnout next Tuesday, June 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Town of Hempstead's second hearing on the potential adoption of a significant rezoning of the Coliseum grounds which would allow casino gambling. A bigger crowd than a week ago Tuesday would be great as we must continue to impress upon the Council our intense opposition to such an ill-conceived zoning change. I would love for you to join me, the "Say No" stalwarts and other committed residents.

TOWN HEARING ON HUB REZONING

The Town of Hempstead will hold another public hearing on Tuesday, June 10 at 10:30 a.m. regarding a rezoning proposal that would allow casino gambling at the Nassau Hub. The hearing will take place at The Pavilion, 1 Washington Street in Hempstead. This is likely the last chance for residents to speak out in opposition to the Town's rezoning of the Nassau Hub. The Nassau County Legislature released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in late May, despite Las Vegas Sands publicly announcing its withdrawal from the project. The FEIS is available in hard copy at the Garden City Library and can also be found online. It is expected that the Legislature will vote whether to accept or reject the FEIS at its next meeting on Monday, June 23rd at 1:00 p.m. Residents are also urged to attend this meeting at 1550 Franklin Avenue in Mineola.

BELMONT FESTIVAL

The Belmont Festival is back! Join us Friday, June 6, 6-10 p.m. on Seventh Street for live music, games for all ages, vendors, a performance by Broadway Bound Dance Center and more! Support our local eateries and businesses as we celebrate the third jewel of U.S. thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown.

DECOMMISSIONING 1ST MARINE CORPS DISTRICT BASE

Over the weekend I, along with Trustees Bruce Torino and Yvonne Varano, Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson, Village Historian Bill Bellmer and Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi, attended the "Farewell to the Mackie Center" ceremony at 1st Marine Corps Headquarters on Stewart Avenue. The 1st Marine Corps District has been home to more than 350 military and government service employees that oversee eight recruiting stations and dozens of substations throughout the region. The Stewart Avenue base will be decommissioned this summer as the 1st Marine Corps District moves its Headquarters to Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn.

RISE IN MAIL THEFT

Garden City Police are alerting residents to a concerning rise in mail thefts throughout the Village and Nassau County. These incidents, occurring at various times throughout the day and night, target residential USPS mailboxes, leaving many residents vulnerable to identity theft and financial loss. Commissioner Jackson reports that thieves are employing a method involving a weighted object covered in a sticky substance

attached to a string to extract mail from mailboxes. This technique allows them to retrieve envelopes and packages. In numerous cases, the stolen mail contains checks which the thieves wash out to substitute new amounts and recipient names before cashing them. In some instances, stolen postal keys have also been employed to unlock mailboxes. To protect themselves and their personal information, the Police Department recommends the following precautions:

- Use Secure Mail Options: Place outgoing mail in receptacles inside the Post Office or hand it directly to your mail carrier. Residents are advised to avoid using the mailbox at the 6th Street Garden City Post Office, as it has been targeted by thieves on multiple occasions.
- Avoid Sending Cash: Never send cash through the mail, as it poses a significant risk of theft.
- Opt for Secure Checks: Utilize checks that are difficult to alter.
- Use Black Gel Pens: When writing checks, use black gel pens, as the gel ink bonds better with the fibers of paper checks, making it more difficult to wash off or alter.
- Timing Matters: Place your mail in a mailbox as close to the collection time as possible to minimize the risk of theft.
- Inspect Mailboxes: If you notice any sticky substances on a mailbox, do not drop your mail in it.
- Retrieve Mail Promptly: Make it a priority to collect your delivered mail from your mailbox as soon as possible to reduce the opportunity for theft.

For more information or to report suspicious activity, please contact the Garden City Police Department at (516) 465-4100.

LIBRARY SURVEY

The 2025 Garden City Public Library Survey is live until June 30. It's your opportunity to share your thoughts on how the Library can better serve Village residents. The survey includes 20 quick questions and as a thank you for participating, you can enter your email address at the end of the survey for a chance to win an Amazon gift card. One response will be drawn at random after the survey closes. Please encourage other family, friends and neighbors to complete the survey too. Visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GCPL2025>. Please note: Paper copies of the survey are not available at the Library. However, you are welcome to stop by the Library and use a public computer or borrow an iPad to complete the survey on-site. Help us improve the Library's services, programs, and resources for the entire community.

PSEG AERIAL (HELICOPTER) INSPECTIONS

Between June 2-13, 2025 PSEG Long Island will be conducting aerial (helicopter) inspections of assets throughout its service territory (Nassau, Suffolk, Rockaways) in order to provide reliable service. Please note the helicopter is black and white, with a tail number N407JB.