

August 27, 2025

Here we are at the “end” of summer. Although when school starts next Tuesday (September 2), there will actually be 19 more days before the autumnal equinox (a/k/a fall) and I plan to enjoy every one of those 19 days! Nonetheless, the calendar moves on and below you’ll find some snippets of information covering Labor Day, back-to-school safety tips and other news flashes.

I always look forward to the fall and fully expect the Board will continue to push forward on many fronts, including: keeping our eye on and encouraging positive potential development at the Coliseum grounds; traffic safety; capital projects to improve our Village infrastructure; closely studying the subdivision issue during our recently imposed moratorium; and the future of St. Paul’s...amongst a host of other issues of import. Thank you always to you...for your support, your input – whether a yay or a nay – and our shared love of GC!

SECOND ST. PAUL’S MEETING WITH BCI

Representatives from BCI will discuss the results of the recent St. Paul's Survey and outline some of their recommendations from the Recreation Department Master Plan at a second public meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall and via Zoom.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND DWI PATROLS

This Labor Day weekend, the Garden City Police Department, along with various other Police Departments throughout Nassau County, will participate in the STOP DWI Enforcement Initiative, which targets intoxicated and drugged drivers. This initiative will be enhanced by funds provided by the Nassau County Traffic Safety Board, STOP-DWI NY, and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. According to Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson, the Department will be deploying additional patrols to monitor Village roadways and strictly enforce all DWI and impaired driving laws in an effort to prevent tragedies resulting from DWI-related crashes.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 490 people died in vehicle crashes during the 2023 Labor Day weekend, and 36 percent of the crashes involved a drunk driver.

ONGOING MAIL THEFTS

The Garden City Police Department is alerting residents to the ongoing trend of 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 an improvised tool covered in a sticky substance that is able 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. Commissioner Jackson urges residents to remain vigilant, stating, “If you observe anyone who is not a postal worker removing mail from a mailbox, please notify the Department immediately.”

To protect themselves and their personal information, the Garden City 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, or any other mailbox located outside a County Post Office, as these have 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.

The Garden City Police Department is working with the U.S. Postal Service on measures that may be taken to reduce mail theft. The Garden City Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our residents. By taking these proactive measures, we can work together to prevent mail theft and protect personal information. For more information or to report suspicious activity, contact the Garden City Police Department at (516) 465-4100.

LIGHT IT UP GOLD

The gazebo will be lit with gold lights the month of September for Light it Up Gold for Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month. Residents are invited to attend the ceremony Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30 p.m. on the Village Green.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY SERIES PART II: BUS STOPS

This is part two of a four-part series of articles by the Garden City Police Department addressing Back-to-School Safety Issues. In last week's article, we addressed safe driving practices. If you missed last week's article, a copy was placed on the Village website. This week's article will cover school bus safety. Parents, grandparents, guardians, and teachers are encouraged to use this article to help teach children about school bus safety.

Bus Stops:

- Hold your child's hand and walk together to and from the bus stop each day. Research has shown that you should hold their hand on the sidewalk and in parking lots until your child is at least eight years old. Furthermore, until they are 10 years old, you should hold their hand while crossing the street.
- Stay with your child at the bus stop. If you cannot stay with your child, arrange for another trusted adult to accompany them.
- When waiting for the school bus, have the children stay orderly and stand back from the curb.
- Meet your child at the bus stop after school; never wait on the opposite side of the street. Talk to your child about what they should do if you are delayed and cannot meet them as usual.
- Discuss with your children what they should do if they accidentally get on the wrong bus or miss their regular bus stop.
- When children get off the bus, they should use the handrail and look out the door to the rear of the bus before stepping off the bottom step. The Pupil Transportation Safety Institute advises that more and more vehicles are passing stopped school buses on the right shoulder – where the door is located.
- Remember, clothing can get caught. Jackets, sweatshirt drawstrings, backpack straps, scarves, and loose clothing may get caught on bus handrails or doors. This could be dangerous while getting on or off the bus.
- Children should take five giant steps straight out from the school bus door and out of the danger zone.
- Teach your child to make eye contact with the bus driver and wait for the driver to signal them before they cross in front of the bus.
- The Pupil Transportation Safety Institute reports that 84% of School Bus fatalities occur outside the bus.
- Remind your children to look both ways for traffic before crossing the street. Never assume cars will stop for the bus.

- Never go back for anything you left on the bus, and never bend down near or under the bus.

School Bus Behavior:

- Enter and exit school buses in an orderly manner, using handrails where provided.
- After getting on the bus, go directly to your seat and remain seated, facing forward.
- Students need to listen to the bus driver for special instructions or information.
- Speak quietly and politely to the other children near you.
- Do not jump up and down, fight or tease other passengers, or be unruly. These activities can distract the bus driver, and they may not be able to give proper attention to driving.
- Keep aisles clear.
- Keep heads, hands, arms, feet, and other objects inside the bus at all times.
- Never run or throw items inside the bus.
- Help keep the bus clean and in good condition. Report any unsafe or unsanitary conditions to the bus driver.

Motorist Reminders:

- Remember, if you are approaching a school bus from the front or behind and its yellow lights are flashing, the bus is preparing to stop.
- It is illegal – and very dangerous – to pass or overtake a stopped school bus when emergency red lights are flashing. These flashing lights mean the bus is either picking up or discharging students.
- If the bus's red lights are flashing, you must stop and remain stopped until the red warning lights are off. This includes school buses that are on the opposite side of divided highways, on multiple-lane roadways, in parking lots, and on school grounds.
- The first-time fine for illegally passing a school bus ranges from \$250 to \$400, plus a \$93 surcharge, 5-points on your license and/or 30 days in jail; subsequent violations carry fines ranging from \$600 to \$1,500, plus a \$93 surcharge, 5-points on your license and/or up to 180 days in jail.
- Be advised that many buses are now equipped with cameras, which may result in violators receiving tickets for passing a stopped school bus.
- The Garden City Police Department encourages residents to incorporate these safe practices into their lives to make this school year safe.

SANITATION COLLECTION - HOLIDAY WEEK

Residents are reminded that there will be no garbage pickup on Monday, September 1, 2025. The Holiday Week Collection Schedule is as follows:

GARBAGE

- Western Half of Village: Tuesday and Friday
- Eastern Half of Village: Wednesday and Saturday

RUBBISH

- Entire Village: Thursday, September 4

RECYCLING

- Residents scheduled for recycling on Monday, September 1 are asked to put their recyclables out on Labor Day