

December 3, 2025

Hey folks...what a busy and fun time of year. Before we jump into the “regular portion of the news,” I’d like to highlight some terrific goings on at GC High, the recently named #2 ranked high school on Long Island according to *US News & World Report*. On the sports field a hearty congrats to: the Varsity Football team which won its 66th(!) straight game and captured its fifth consecutive LI championship; the Girls’ Volleyball team which won the Class AA State championship; the Girls’ Field Hockey team which won another LI Class B championship; and, the Boys’ Soccer team which captured its second straight Class AA State championship. Off the playing field, three seniors were named 2026 National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists; in science: two students were named among the top 10 winners **worldwide** in the Junior Scientists and Young Explorers Meta competition and one student was named a finalist in the International Science and Engineering Fair; 41 students were welcomed into the National Art Honor Society; and, the GC Marching Band came in 2nd at the U.S. Bands NYS championship for Division IIA, winning Best Color Guard, Best Visual and Best Percussion. These are but a few of the successes of our hard working students...and congrats to all active and participating students!

YAHOO-IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

This Sunday, **December 7th**, the Village and Chamber of Commerce will hold the annual Christmas Tree Lighting, beginning at **3:30 p.m. on the Village Green**. Holiday music will be provided by the Garden City High School Vocal Jazz Ensemble and the Broadway Bound dancers will also perform. The event will also feature a special visit from Santa himself. Hot chocolate will be provided by the Garden City Fire Department.

On Friday, **December 12th**, the WPOA will hold its Tree Lighting on New Hyde Park Road. It will begin at 6:00 p.m.

On Sunday, **December 14th**, the first candle of the HANUKKAH Festival of Lights Menorah will be lit at sundown on the Village Green, and...

On Friday, **December 19th**, join us for WINTER FEST on 7th Street between 4-9 p.m...there'll be lots to do for the young ... and those a little less young!

Hope to see a great crowd at all these terrific and wonderful events.

OPERATION SANTA

The GC Volunteer Fire Department is excited to announce that Operation Santa will be spreading holiday cheer throughout the Village during the week of December 15th! Keep an eye out as Santa comes riding through your neighborhood on a firetruck, greeting families and spreading the magic of the season. Updates and detailed schedules will be coming out soon!

PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT

The Village has applied for a Division of Criminal Justice Services Public Safety Program grant to fund software and equipment for an updated 911 Recording System. The updated system will further advance the safety infrastructure of the Village of Garden City.

HOLIDAY WINDOW DISPLAY CONTEST

The Garden City Chamber of Commerce invites all local businesses on 7th Street, Franklin Avenue and New Hyde Park Road to showcase their holiday spirit and creativity by participating in the Holiday Window

Display Contest. Create a spectacular, eye-catching holiday display in your storefront window or on your building's exterior. To ensure your business is included in the judging, please register with the Chamber. Judging will take place on December 17; winners will be announced the next day in the local news and Chamber social media pages. Volunteer judges from the Board of Directors of the Chamber and the Garden City community will evaluate the displays based on originality, creativity and overall presentation. We invite all to take a stroll through the Village business areas to enjoy all the wonderful displays.

POLICE ISSUE WARNING ON INCREASING THEFT PATTERNS TARGETING ATM USERS

The Garden City Police Department is alerting the community to a concerning trend of thefts involving individuals targeted after making ATM withdrawals. This alarming pattern, known as "Bank Jugging," has been recently reported, and it poses serious risks to unsuspecting victims. Bank Jugging occurs when an individual is followed immediately after withdrawing money from an ATM or bank. Thieves often watch for victims to leave their vehicles unattended, exploiting the moment to break in and steal cash and valuables left inside. A recent incident highlights this issue, where a victim was followed from a bank on Jericho Turnpike to a local gym in Garden City, resulting in the theft of cash and personal items from their vehicle. In addition to Bank Jugging, the Garden City Police Department is also seeing two other related scams:

- 1. Vehicle Damage Scam:** In this scheme, a perpetrator approaches a victim, claiming their vehicle has a flat tire or is otherwise damaged. While the victim is distracted, another accomplice enters the vehicle and steals cash and other valuables. In some instances, the scammer may intentionally damage a tire to force the victim to stop and assess the situation.
- 2. Money Drop Scam:** This tactic involves a thief approaching a victim as they are entering their vehicle, suggesting that they have dropped money. As the victim searches for the "lost" money, another accomplice takes the opportunity to steal cash from the victim's vehicle.

The GC Police Department urges the public to take the following precautions to reduce the risk of falling victim to these types of theft:

Be Vigilant: Always be aware of your surroundings when withdrawing money. Remain alert for anyone who may be watching you or following you after leaving the bank or ATM.

Avoid Distractions: Refrain from using your phone immediately after making a withdrawal, and do not engage with individuals who claim you have vehicle issues or have dropped money.

Conceal Your Cash: As soon as you withdraw cash, place it securely in your pocket or handbag before leaving the ATM or bank.

Observe for Suspicious Behavior: Be on the lookout for individuals loitering around the bank or ATM during your visit.

Vary Your Banking Routine: Change the time and locations of your ATM and Bank withdrawals to avoid establishing predictable patterns.

Check for Followers: After completing a withdrawal, take a moment to check if anyone is following you.

Drive Directly to Your Destination: If you suspect that you are being followed, report it to the police immediately or drive straight to the nearest police station for assistance.

The Garden City Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our community. By following these guidelines and staying alert, we can work together to prevent these thefts from impacting our residents.