

January 20, 2021

THE MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor@gardencityny.net

Village Hall is open. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Visitors are required to wear a face covering, maintain social distancing of six feet and sign in to a Visitor's Log outside of the office they are visiting. Furthermore, while multiple people can enter Village Hall, only one person will be admitted into each office space at a time and are asked to abide by employee instructions.

POLICE REFORM

Mayor Theresa Trouvé announces after several meetings with the Garden City Committee on Police Reform and the Nassau County Police and Community Trust (PACT) Committee, the Garden City Police Department has prepared a draft New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan. The plan will be available for review on the Village website, www.gardencityny.net. Anyone wishing to review the plan may visit the website, and, if they wish, provide feedback by emailing policereform@gardencityny.net or via USPS mail to: Police Reform, 351 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530.

REFUNDING BOND RESOLUTION

The Board approved a refunding bond resolution for a portion of an outstanding bond issued in 2010 for public improvements for an amount not to exceed \$1.7 million. The Finance Department reached out to the Village's fiscal advisor, CMA, which determined that the remaining outstanding debt in that bond for the next five years could be reissued to produce a small net savings for the Village of about \$45,000. According to Village Treasurer Irene Woo, in the event interest rates rise in the next few weeks and it's no longer cost beneficial, we will not issue the refunding. "We do this because it's cost efficient. We're in the market anyway looking to issue new bonds so we take a look at refunding our existing bonds as doing both deals together does reduce some of the costs," Ms. Woo said.

CATHEDRAL AVENUE TRAFFIC CALMING STUDY APPROVED

The Board of Trustees has engaged the professional services of Creighton Manning Engineering, LLP to prepare a \$47,800 traffic calming study of Cathedral Avenue, as requested by the Traffic Commission. Traffic calming is the combination of measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior, and improve conditions for non-motorized street users. Traffic calming consists of physical design and other measures put in place on existing roads to reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Trustee Louis Minuto, Traffic Commission chairman, assures residents the study would not divert traffic elsewhere but rather believes it could be a "game changer for road safety" in the Village.

Frank Filiciotto, PE, branch manager for Creighton Manning Engineering, LLP, prepared the proposal. He said the study's goal is to ease traffic and lessen the frequency of accidents. "Based on the three years of data I've been looking at ... levels of traffic on Cathedral are not at the point where it would spill over onto parallel roadways," he said.

A Nassau County-owned road, Cathedral Avenue sees approximately 11,500 vehicles per day. According to Mr. Filiciotto, you'd begin seeing traffic diversions when you approach 20,000 vehicles per day. "Cathedral is really a great candidate that we're considering," he said, adding that the study could be replicated elsewhere in the Village if approved by the County.

The Village, in particular the Central Property Owners' Association, for years has been asking Nassau County to take a closer look at Cathedral Avenue. In 2018, after much persistence, Nassau County installed a traffic light at the corner of Third Street and Cathedral Avenue. In 2019, the Police Department responded to 65 accidents on Cathedral Avenue. In 2020, the total number of accidents was 36, according to Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson, significantly lower (44.5 percent) apparently due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'm holding out a lot of hope for this study," Trustee Minuto said. "I've been able to see it firsthand as I live in this part of town and grew up here. The traffic and speeding, and the accidents and overturned cars are things you never thought you'd see coming down these roads. This study is a major step in the right direction."

FEMA REIMBURSEMENT

The Finance Department has provided FEMA with an initial statement of estimated expenditures incurred due to Hurricane Isaias, including the cost of stump removal, which is still taking place throughout the Village. In-house crews are removing the medium-sized stumps while the Village contracted with Harder Services, Inc. to remove the larger stumps, according to Recreation Chairman Paul Blake. Village Treasurer Irene Woo said FEMA would notify the Village to schedule a site inspection.

GCFD TOURS NEW ADELPHI UNIVERSITY CENTER

On the morning of January 16 the Adelphi University Public Safety Department took members of the Garden City Fire Department on a tour of the new Ruth S. Harley University Center, which opened its doors this week. Members were able to familiarize themselves with the building and discuss various operational duties and techniques that will be used at the facility. Designed to be a vibrant hub of campus life, the Center is a place for dining, socializing, meeting, studying and more.

OUTDOOR DINING EXTENDED

The Garden City Chamber of Commerce requested authorization to extend the enhanced Outdoor Dining program for Waterzooi, Novita, Calogero's and Revel for all of 2021 or

until such time as capacity restrictions on restaurants are lifted. Each restaurant has installed partitions and outdoor heaters to accommodate winter dining. At the January 4, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting, the authorization was approved for Waterzooi, Novita and Calogero's, subject to the establishments working with the Village to ascertain that they are following the Village's guidelines for a one-year period (December 31, 2021) or until such time as capacity restrictions on restaurants are lifted (or whichever is earlier). It is also understood that they will comply with New York State Liquor Authority and Fire Marshal guidelines. The Village Clerk was directed to place this item on an agenda in six months for the Board's review.

VILLAGE TREASURER IRENE WOO RECOGNIZED

Garden City Village Treasurer Irene Woo has qualified for the Credentialed Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) designation, considered a declaration that she is proficient in her position and has demonstrated mastery of skills critical to succeeding as a well-respected Municipal Finance Officer.

"I am honored to have attained this designation," Ms. Woo said. "Having worked most of my career in the private sector, it was important for me to continue my education specializing in municipal finance to stay informed of the ever-changing government finance issues and mandates that we face."

The Board of Trustees appointed Ms. Woo, a Garden City resident, in July 2015. She is a New York State Certified Public Accountant, having previously worked at AXA Equitable in New York for 19 years in various roles. The last five years she served as Vice President of Financial Planning and Analysis, where she managed and directed the company's expense management initiatives and processes, including budgeting, forecasting and expense analysis for gross expenditures in excess of \$1.2 billion.

"I congratulate Mrs. Woo for being honored with this distinguished award, which she deserves. I am not at all surprised. She runs an excellent Department," Mayor Theresa Trouvé said.

LIRR SCORECARD

As the LIRR Expansion Project continues, the MTA wants community feedback. As part of this project, MTA Construction & Development and the LIRR have developed a series of environmental and community commitments to minimize construction impacts. The Community Scorecard Program was created to give residents, businesses and commuters a direct voice in the Design-Builder's performance evaluations. Due to COVID-19, this quarter's Community Scorecard will be available online by visiting the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CommunityScorecard4Q2020>. If you do not have computer access and would like to participate, call the 24/7 Community Hotline: 203-4955. Submissions must be completed by January 29, 2021.

SNOWSTORMS - HELP US HELP YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Village residents and merchants who shoveled and cleared their sidewalks within **24 hours** following last month's snow event. Looking ahead to the possibility of future snowstorms, the following suggestions are offered in an effort to reduce inconvenience to residents and to assist the Village in serving your needs:

- If possible, wait until the Village plows the street to clear the snow from your driveway entrance. If you can't wait, shovel or blow the snow onto your property. Do not shovel or blow snow back into the street.
- When you hear that a storm is expected, move your car off the street into your driveway. This will speed up the plowing operation and make the streets safer for travel.
- Park your car, or cars, as close to the end of the driveway as is safely possible. This eliminates the need for shoveling the entire driveway to free your car when the storm has ended and the roads are safe to travel.
- If you are unable to shovel snow or are going to be away, make arrangements to have the snow cleared from your sidewalk. Please remember that you are responsible to shovel your sidewalks within 24 hours after the storm. This will be enforced by the Police Department. This is also applicable to the business community.
- Please clear snow away from all hydrants so that the Fire Department can reach them without delay. Also, make sure that the snow is not blocking the address number to your house.
- To facilitate safe garbage collections, a clear path should be made from the sidewalk to where the garbage is kept. If this is not possible, it is suggested that the garbage be carried to the curb for pickup.