

July 27, 2022

## **THE MAYOR'S UPDATE**

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### **VILLAGE RECEIVES SECOND PAYMENT OF COVID RELIEF FUNDING**

Village Treasurer Irene Woo has announced that the Village has received its second payment (\$1,151,484) of relief funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a \$1.9 trillion relief bill signed into law in March of 2021. The stimulus package provides billions of dollars in direct financial relief for state and local governments, including \$65 billion for America's cities, villages and towns, as well as \$65 billion for counties. Garden City has received a total of \$2.303 million in COVID relief funding (an estimated \$110 per capita).

The funding was delivered in tranches; the first half was received in July 2021. Unlike FEMA funding, the relief will arrive before the Village reports how the funding is being used. Use of funds has recently been expanded to now include any COVID-related revenue losses as well as water, sewer and broadband infrastructure improvements. Ms. Woo said Finance Department staff is reviewing the voluminous guidelines distributed by the United States Department of the Treasury. To date, the Board of Trustees has allocated \$690,000 of the ARPA funds on two capital improvement projects, (Pool Vinyl Liner and HVAC repairs at the Senior Center). The Board will continue to review projects and direct those funds as they see fit within the guidelines.

### **WATER TANK**

H2M is waiting for the final POC and IOC results from Pace Labs, the second set of samples requested by the Nassau County Department of Health (NCDH). Once final sample results are received, completed works request will be issued to NCDH. According to Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi, the interconnect with the Town of Hempstead was closed July 13 but the distribution system is still operating on system pressure - not tank level.

### **GCFD JUNE ACTIVITY**

Chief Matthew Pearn reported that during June the Department responded to 73 total calls:

- 60 "Signal 8" calls or non-emergency automatic alarms
- 7 general alarms
- 6 mutual aid calls to assist neighboring Fire Departments

### **LIGHTNING STRIKE CAUSES HOUSE FIRE**

The Fire Department responded to a house fire on Thursday, July 21, caused by a lightning strike in the attic during strong storms that swept through the area. Chief Matthew Pearn said the Department had the scene under control in less than an hour. He thanked the Police Department and NYU Langone ambulance personnel for their support. "Our partnership has been fantastic over the years and their support on scene has always been incredible," he said.

### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT LEGALIZATION FEE AMNESTY PERIOD ENDS THIS**

## **WEEK!**

The Village Code (Chapter 68-5.D) was amended that whenever a permit holder, permit applicant or other person seeks to legalize work, or is required to legalize work, that was or is being performed without a permit required under this Chapter, the permit holder or permit applicant or other person shall pay a legalization fee equal to three times the application fee. The legalization fee shall be in addition to any and all other application and inspection fees charged by the Department. No new permit for construction or installation work, nor any Certificate of Occupancy, Certificate of Completion or Letter in Lieu shall be issued until the legalization fee for existing construction and/or installations and all other applicable fees are paid in full.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, applications filed during the period from February 1, 2022 through July 30, 2022, no Legalization Fee shall be charged to any applicant or other person seeking to legalize work, or who is required to legalize work, that was or is being performed without a permit required under this Chapter. Residents can come in and fill out the paperwork by the July 30, 2022 deadline and then gather what is required for the process.

## **ST. PAUL'S FENCING**

Responding to inquiries about why the fencing surrounding the St. Paul's Main Building has not been taken down following the completed roof repairs, Building Superintendent Giuseppe Giovanniello said the fencing will remain up to deter vandalism and continue safeguarding the area. "There is still a safety factor with any possible loose bricks, which will be handled in the next phase," he said.

## **2022 POOL SEASON EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS**

Recreation Commissioner Paul Blake was happy to report that the Pool has exceeded membership projections in every category this season except one - Non-Resident Caregiver (which is just three memberships short of projections). Membership applications continue to come in and, to date, the Pool is approximately \$68,000 ahead of its membership revenue projections for the entire season. "Not only have we exceeded projections this year but in the last non-Covid year of 2019. We seem to have the ship moving in the right direction. Kudos to all the people working at the Pool every day. They are doing a tremendous job. Residents and members seem pleased," Mr. Blake said. For more information about Pool membership, visit [www.gardencityrecreation.org](http://www.gardencityrecreation.org).

## **ADRB/ZBA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Village depends upon its residents to volunteer and perform many valuable services. The Mayor is seeking residents with experience in architectural design (preferably architects) and residents with experience in Zoning/Planning to fill vacancies on the Architectural Design Review Board (ADRB) and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). If you are interested in applying for either of these positions, please follow this procedure:

- a. submit a resume or similar information describing your interest including why you would like to serve on either the ADRB or the ZBA along with your qualifications.
- b. please send your information to Karen Altman, Village Clerk (465-4051) at [kaltman@gardencityny.net](mailto:kaltman@gardencityny.net).

## **SERVICE CHANGES AS LIRR CREWS PREP TO INCORPORATE THIRD TRACK TO MAIN LINE**

The MTA and LIRR announced that eastbound service between New Hyde Park and Westbury will experience changes in August and September as crews begin incorporating the newly built third track to the LIRR Main Line by demolishing temporary platforms and completing track and signal systems work and testing. For the past two years, eastbound riders at New Hyde Park, Merillon Avenue, Mineola, Carle Place and Westbury have been using temporary wooden platforms to board trains. Underneath these platforms is the new third track. Before the LIRR can start running trains on the new track, the wooden platforms need to be removed, the track and signal systems need to be completed, and testing needs to be performed.

While work on the Third Track is being completed over the next few months, there will be significant changes to eastbound service at New Hyde Park, Merillon Avenue, Mineola, Carle Place and Westbury stations, including track changes and substitute bus connections. Trains may run in both directions on the usual westbound track, especially at night and during the midday, to allow trains to make station stops while project crews work on the usual eastbound track at or near the stations. At other times, trains may not be able to stop at these stations, so customers will connect with bus service at alternate stations to reach their destination. Crews anticipate the use of temporary shorter platforms requiring customers to be in the front of the train to exit. On several weekends during this time, trains will not run between Jamaica and Hicksville to support this effort. Customers can visit <https://new.mta.info/mainline> to learn about service changes. As the changes approach, customers can use the LIRR TrainTime app, watch platform signs, and listen for announcements.

### **Track Numbers to Change:**

- The newly built track will be known as Track 2 once the Third Track opens at each station. The center track will be called Track 1 and the northern (usually westbound) track will continue to be known as Track 3 following its renumbering in March.

### **Service Changes:**

#### **Monday, Aug. 1 through Friday, Aug. 5**

- Eastbound customers going to Merillon Avenue must be in the first six cars to exit the train, except during the overnight hours between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., when all trains will run on Track 3. There will be no changes to train schedules or service at New Hyde Park.

#### **Monday, Aug. 8 through Friday, Aug. 12**

- All eastbound trains will bypass New Hyde Park and Merillon Avenue between 5 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. A bus at Mineola will provide service back to Merillon Avenue and New Hyde Park. For service to those stations, customers can take a train to Mineola and connect with the bus.
- Customers who start their trips at New Hyde Park or Merillon Avenue will be able to board buses to Mineola, which will depart up to 30 minutes earlier than the normal schedule. As an alternative to busing, customers can use the Hempstead Branch at nearby Stewart Manor or Nassau Boulevard stations.

- Between 3:30 p.m. and 11 p.m., eastbound trains will stop at New Hyde Park and Merillon Avenue, but customers will need to be in the first six cars in order to exit. During the evening rush hour, there will also be changes to which trains stop at these stations. From 11 p.m. to 5 a.m., trains will run on their regular schedules but will arrive on Track 3 in both directions.

The new third track between Floral Park and Hicksville can now enable the operation of true bi-directional service during peak hours on the Main Line, which consists of three branches (Ronkonkoma, Port Jefferson/Huntington and Oyster Bay). Seven bridges have been replaced and eight at-grade crossings eliminated. When the project is completed, five stations will be rebuilt, 10 miles of third track will be installed, and infrastructure such as power substations and interlockings will be built. For more information on the 100+ projects that are part of the LIRR Expansion Project, visit [aModernLI.com](http://ModernLI.com).