

December 16, 2020

## **THE MAYOR'S UPDATE**

[Mayor@gardencityny.net](mailto:Mayor@gardencityny.net)

Village Hall and the administrative offices are open for in-person inquiries and business, and all full-time staff has returned to the on-site workplace. Office hours are between 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. The Trustees and I, as your Mayor, would like to wish everyone in our Village a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

## **LIRR UTILITY POLES LITIGATION**

After a deadlock, Mayor Theresa Trouvé voted again to break the tie vote that passed a resolution to engage the law firm of Berkman Henoch Peterson Peddy & Fenchel, P.C. to pursue litigation against such parties as are recommended by Counsel, for the purpose of removing certain utility poles placed alongside the LIRR right-of-way within Garden City, all in accordance with a proposed retainer agreement now on file with the Village Clerk, for the rates recited within the proposed retainer agreement, but not to exceed \$100,000 without further resolution of this Board. Funding has been appropriated from Surplus.

Joseph E. Macy, a partner with the firm, prepared a written legal opinion and proposal that reviewed the major relevant facts; outlined possible causes of action against the MTA/LIRR (and/or other appropriate defendants); assessed the likelihood of success of such causes of action; and estimated the timeline and costs for litigating such causes of action all in relation to the goal of the Village to have the utility poles recently installed on the north and south sides of the LIRR tracks (between the New Hyde Park station and Garden City High School) removed, re-located, and/or reduced in height. The legal opinion was prepared at a cost that did not exceed \$10,000.

## **STORM PREP**

Anywhere from 6 to 12 inches of snow is predicted Wednesday into Thursday as the first major winter storm of 2020, a nor'easter, hits the region. According to the National Weather Service, a Winter Storm Warning will remain in effect until Thursday afternoon. Heavy snow, sometimes mixed with sleet, is possible during this storm.

The Village is equipped with 38 combined large and small plow trucks, 16 of which have salters on them. Five payloaders and three backhoe loaders are also ready to be used during cleanup efforts. Further, the Village's salt structures hold approximately 1,400 tons of salt. With 76 miles of Village streets to clear, including village-owned municipal parking lots, storm prep typically begins 36-48 hours before a forecasted storm. Department of Public Works mechanics at the Village Municipal Yard Tuesday and

Wednesday were fueling up trucks and equipment, waxing plows and loading salters.

When snow begins to fall, salting of roadways and parking lots begins. If snow accumulates to a point where salting becomes ineffective, additional crews will be called in to help begin snowplowing operations. Hills, curves and primary roads are plowed first; then secondary roads, train stations and parking fields are addressed.

Residents are reminded to please keep all vehicles off the streets until the snow has stopped and roads are completely plowed. All driveway aprons should only be shoveled and cleared after the road is completely plowed, curb-to-curb. Please, when clearing aprons and sidewalks, do not throw snow back into a plowed roadway.

As always Department of Public Works mechanics will also be on-hand throughout the duration of the storm to keep the Village's salt and snow removal fleet up and running. In addition, the Water and Recreation & Parks Departments contribute to the snow removal efforts.

### **RECYCLING CARDBOARD**

Residents are reminded that cardboard can be dropped off at the Village Municipal Yard for recycling. The topic was briefly discussed at the December 10, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting when a Trustee asked if a special cardboard pick up could be added to the schedule following the holidays. Cardboard has its own parameters and its bulk causes spacing issues on the trucks.

The Village Transfer Station was established a number of years ago for the convenience of Village residents. It is located just south of the entrance to the Community Park Complex on Cherry Valley Avenue. Its use is limited to passenger cars, station wagons and suburban type vehicles including mini vans with full windows all around. All trucks, vans and commercial vehicles are excluded. The Yard is open weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.; Saturdays between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.; and closed on Sundays.

Residents who wish to use the transfer station must obtain a permit. Permits may be obtained in person at the first floor Business Office in Village Hall, by presenting a valid registration for their vehicle along with the required fee. All vehicles must be registered to a Garden City address. All vehicles must have a permit. All permits must be on the front, left bumper.

### **STOLEN VEHICLES – DON'T BE A VICTIM**

Over the last few weeks, there have been reports of stolen vehicles, including three incidents right here in Garden City. According to Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson, keys or key fobs were left inside the vehicles. On Dec. 2, two vehicles were reported stolen from the driveway of an Adams Street residence. Upon activation of both vehicles' tracking systems, Officers traced and recovered them in Brooklyn. The investigation is ongoing. Two days later, Garden City Detectives tracked a vehicle reported stolen from a

St. James Street South driveway to a Newark, NJ, commercial garage where it was recovered. That investigation is also ongoing. In nearby Mineola, a woman was sitting in her idling vehicle when a suspect leaving a court arraignment jumped in the vehicle, pushed her out and stole the vehicle.

Commissioner Jackson recommends locking the doors and never leaving your keys or key fobs inside your vehicle when not in use. Be aware that the side view mirrors on many newer model vehicles retract when you lock them and walk away. Thieves know this and often ride up and down streets looking for certain vehicles that have their side view mirrors in the out position indicating there may be a key fob inside. Further, if you're going to sit in your vehicle, make sure it's locked.

### **HOLIDAY KEEPSAKE ORNAMENT FOR SALE**

Friends of the Garden City Public Library is selling a keepsake 2020 holiday ornament for \$8. All proceeds are used to fund Library programs. The ornaments can be ordered and picked up at the Library through December 21 on the following dates in the Step Down Café on the Lower Level: Monday (Dec. 21) and Thursday (Dec. 17) between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM, and on Saturday (Dec. 19) between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Contactless delivery is also available for Garden City residents. Call Rosemary Long at 516-775-0821 for more information.

### **CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

Citizens Campaign for the Environment is conducting a door-to-door outreach program through January 31, 2021, Monday through Friday between the hours of 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. Please note that if you do not wish to be solicited, you can submit to Village Hall a "Notice of Objection to Non-Commercial Solicitations & Distributions" form and you will not be solicited. All canvassers must pick up this listing from the Police Department before they begin their campaign and they will adhere to this listing.