

April 12, 2023

AN UPDATE ON TRAFFIC

While many residents have complaints about traffic, I have found that few know how our Village addresses those complaints. We have a Traffic Commission made up of four trustees, the Police Commissioner and the Superintendent of Public Works. Trustee Charlie Kelly is the chair of this commission and runs regularly scheduled meetings that all residents are welcome to attend. If you have a particular traffic complaint or request, you can ask that the item be added to the agenda for the next Traffic Commission meeting. If your request is one that impacts neighbors, you may submit a petition to support your request. Trustee Larry Marciano, who served on the Traffic Commission last year, will continue this year. He is joined by Trustees Ed Finneran and Michael Sullivan. Minutes of these meetings are available on the Village website, and they illustrate the requests received and actions taken. The agenda for the meetings is followed closely, and Police Commissioner Jackson has an opportunity to evaluate the requests before the meeting begins so he can make comments and recommendations. These meetings are a great way for important traffic decisions to be made with input from our Police Commissioner as well as our Superintendent of DPW, Mr. John Borroni. Issues commonly addressed at the Traffic Commission meetings include requests for a Stop sign, parking restrictions, traffic lights, crosswalks and traffic signage. The new signage recently added restricting turns off Old Country Road into the northeastern section is an example of actions that can be taken at Traffic Commission meetings. Residents had complained about commuters cutting through the side streets in this neighborhood to avoid the traffic on Old Country Road as children were walking to bus stops.

The agenda at Traffic Commission meetings also includes items relating to county roads. The Traffic Commission hears the County's response to previously submitted requests by the Village, and the Commission also discusses and makes decisions on requests that should be made to the County.

The Traffic Commission meetings are one hour long and they are scheduled at 6:30 p.m. They are typically held every other month at Village Hall. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, May 4. Residents are encouraged to attend in person or by Zoom.

In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings, the Traffic Commission, under the leadership of Trustee Kelly, has been working on a number of different initiatives. Traffic calming on our Village roads was studied first in the Central Section where residents had complaints of cut through traffic and speeding which was impacting quality of life and raising safety concerns. The Village hired a consultant, Creighton Manning, which performed a traffic calming study of the Central Section, and the final report with recommendations is on the Village website. Recognizing the importance of offering traffic calming Village-wide, with set policies on implementing traffic calming measures, Creighton Manning was hired to perform a traffic calming study in the three remaining sections of the Village, and the last session for community input will be on Thursday evening, April 27th at 7:00 p.m. before the recommendations are finalized. Some of the recommendations that are being analyzed include speed humps, traffic circles, raised crosswalks and bump outs. The Traffic Calming Study relied on input from residents who volunteered to form Community Advisory Committees for each of the sections. These residents are invited to the April 27th meeting, as are other residents who are interested in traffic calming but were unable to volunteer for the committees. The Traffic Commission will be discussing the continuation of Community Advisory Committees to assist the Traffic Commission after the Traffic Calming Study is completed.

In the near future residents will begin noticing the implementation of some of the recommendations from the Central Section traffic calming study as temporary speed humps have been ordered, and plans are being

prepared for bump outs and a raised crosswalk on 7th street.

As the Traffic Commission is focusing on traffic calming on side streets, attention is also focused on our main roadways. At the recommendation of the Traffic Commission, the Village has put out an RFP for a study to evaluate reducing the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph, a measure recently made available to villages, and possible restrictions on truck traffic are being studied. The Village has also put out an RFP for a study on dieting Stewart Avenue east of Franklin to two lanes of traffic in each direction.

I thank the Traffic Commission for all the work they are doing on the important issue of traffic and invite residents to attend Traffic Commission meetings, as well as the April 27th meeting on traffic calming.

2023 SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING

Each spring the Garden City Water Department opens and flows (flushes) hydrants. This maintenance begins Monday, April 17 and will run through Tuesday, May 9. Flyers that specify when flushing will take place in your neighborhood are being hand delivered to residents by Water Department personnel. This biannual maintenance program is essential to the operation. We receive many questions about this program and why it needs to be done. This is an important benefit to you, our residents, and we'd like to share with you what it entails and how it benefits you. Flushing water mains is a way for us to clean out a build-up of dissolved minerals inside our mains. This build-up is caused by reduced water demands during the winter months. These deposits settle to the bottom of the mains and must be cleaned out so that they don't cause discolored water in the future.

The flushing is done between the hours of 11:30 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. in order to keep the disturbance to your water service to a minimum during normal water usage time. While flushing is occurring in your area, you may have some slight fluctuations in water pressure and temporary water discoloration. Here are some recommendations you can follow during flushing dates in your neighborhood:

- Draw water for cooking ahead of time
- Store bottles of water for drinking
- Be sure to check the water quality before using your washing machine or dishwasher

Mark your calendars now to be prepared when we begin flushing the water mains in your neighborhood. Any questions, please contact the Water Department at (516) 465-4020.

DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

The Garden City Police Department will participate in the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 22, 2023, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The Garden City Police Department Headquarters will maintain a collection center at 349 Stewart Avenue, Garden City. This event provides an opportunity for everyone to discard unwanted, unused, and expired medications safely. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA): Pharmaceutical Drugs can be just as dangerous as street drugs when taken without a prescription or a doctor's supervision. The non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks second only to marijuana as the most common form of drug abuse in America. The Garden City Police Department also advises that they accept unused, expired, and unwanted medications every day if someone cannot turn in their medications on April 22. In addition, the Garden City Police Department's and DEA's Drug Take Back Programs allow for the safe disposal of drugs instead of flushing, burying, or throwing them out in the garbage, which poses significant environmental and health risks.

ST. PAUL'S PLAYGROUND SAFETY SURFACING

Turf-Tek has advised that the project to install new safety surfacing at the Saint Paul's Playground will begin

on Monday, April 10. The entire play area will be closed for the duration of the project – most likely two to three weeks. The new surface will be the synthetic turf style surfacing that was installed at Edgemere Park last summer. This product provides good fall protection, causes less skin abrasion if children fall, and requires less maintenance than the old poured in place rubber surface does. Residents are asked to keep clear of the playground area as this work goes on.

ORGANIC TURF MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Village is again administering an Organic Turf Management program at both Saint Paul’s fields and at Community Park. Organic treatment of our turf provides many benefits to the Village. With traditional fertilizers and chemicals, we are concerned about people “rolling in the turf” and picking up the material, some of which is not good for humans. We are also concerned about all of the chemicals which will eventually leach down into the water source. Organics do not present such issues, and if allowed enough time to work, will result in stronger, better turf, according to Paul Blake, chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs.

Organic turf programs do require time to work. In most cases, it takes between three and five years to see any substantial improvement to the turf. This is due, in part, to the materials having to detoxify the soil from the previously used materials. At St. Paul’s, we are entering our fourth year of the Organic Turf Management, while at Community Park, we are entering year two. Treatments at our facilities are managed by Alternative Earthcare, which has been in the Organic Turf Management business since 1996.

Here are the components of our program; these are applied at various times during the year, in different combinations:

- Corn Gluten – This all natural product is an excellent source of nutrition, containing approximately 10 percent nitrogen. Additionally, it also helps with crabgrass and weed control.
- 6-0-0 Liquid Organic Fertilizer – This product is used in conjunction with Compost Tea, and supports root enhancement. It also helps the soil to hold water longer, and increases the bacterial and fungal activity in the soil.
- Compost Tea – Made from two simple ingredients, compost and water. This is a very powerful source of nutrients for the turf, as well as a food source for the microorganisms in the soil.
- Liquid Humates – This is a premium, natural product which is derived from Leonardite, an oxidation product of lignite coal and mined from near surface pits. It stimulates beneficial soil microorganisms, and penetrates the soil quickly, going directly to the roots of the turf for rapid absorption.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK IN GARDEN CITY

Here are some events and meetings taking place this week in Garden City:

MONDAY, APRIL 17 1:30 p.m. Monday Movie Matinee, *Meet Me in St. Louis* at the Library

MONDAY, APRIL 17 7:30 p.m. Library Board of Trustees Meeting at the Library

TUESDAY, APRIL 18 2:30 p.m. Senior Center Chair Dancing with Felicia in St. Paul’s Cottage #110

TUESDAY, APRIL 18 6:30 p.m. Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at Village Hall

TUESDAY - FRIDAY APRIL 18-21 Revised Pickleball hours (Tuesday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to Noon; Thursdays 3 to 5:30 p.m.; and Fridays 5 to 8:30 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 3:00 p.m. Senior Center Chess Refresher Course in the St. Paul’s North Cottage

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 7:30 p.m. Environmental Advisory Board Meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom

THURSDAY, APRIL 20 3:15 p.m. Senior Center Zumba Gold with Andrea in Cluett Hall

THURSDAY, APRIL 20 7:30 p.m. Village Board of Trustees Meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom