

VILLAGE NEWS



Honoring Those Who Made The Ultimate Sacrifice



By Carisa Giardino

Despite the unpredictable weather, residents lined the streets to help honor the war dead on Monday, May 28. American Legion William Bradford Turner Post 265 conducted its annual parade and ceremony, which this year also included a re-dedication of two Doubleday plaques.

The parade made its way to the War Memorial on Seventh Street where keynote speakers joined residents in honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Christopher Blume, an Army veteran and immediate past Commander, served as Grand Marshal. He appealed to Garden City's veterans. "For those of you out there that served, please join," he said.

Mayor Brian Daughney, who marched alongside Trustees Stephen Makrinos, John Delany and Colleen Foley, added, "We are honored by your service, your presence and we want to thank you, as well as present members of the military, for all that you do."

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Adopted Budget Focuses on Village Infrastructure, Service Delivery

By Carisa Giardino

Garden City Trustees adopted a \$61 million operating budget for 2018-19 following an April 2018 public hearing.

"We are presenting a budget that increases costs higher than we might prefer, and based on the last three to four years where we have kept annual increases lower. However, there are realities and wants that we need to address in this budget and every budget," Mayor Brian Daughney said during opening remarks, further noting that this year the Village is required to pay a nine percent increase in health insurance costs. The Mayor commented further to emphasize his point: "Think about that - we cannot have a flat or 1 percent increase in our budget when we are faced with mandated, unavoidable increases in health costs of 9 percent when 63 percent of our budget is labor related."

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Addressing The Parking Shortage at Stewart Field Complex



By Carisa Giardino

Employees from both the Public Works and Recreation and Parks Departments combined forces this month to continue prior efforts to clear out overgrowth on the north end of the Stewart Field complex.

This area was partially cut back last fall but the Village's more recent efforts were much more extensive in eliminating the heavy components of the overgrowth.

A finer grading of this newly cleared area is being performed and grass seed put down to create coverage that is more in line with the character and use of the surrounding parkland. The area is located next to the first

base line of the newly created 75-foot baseball and softball field and continues all along the north side of Stewart Field.

To the north of the visible fence is an area of Nassau County-owned land formerly part of the original Vanderbilt Motor Parkway. The Village has proposed to the County that they enter into a long-term arrangement so that the Village can use that area for additional parking for Stewart Field while also promoting the historic site. Several years ago the County expressed interest in promoting the history of the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway throughout the County. On the Village side, the Board of Trustees desires to address the severe parking shortage at Stewart Field, in the existing lot.

Village Historian William Bellmer and fellow resident Cyril Smith have been instrumental over the years in getting markers placed throughout the Village to highlight historical sites, including the Long Island Motor Parkway toll lodge, now the Chamber of Commerce building on Seventh Street.

In 1908 early motorcar enthusiast and auto racer William K. Vanderbilt built the Long Island Motor Parkway. It was the first concrete highway in America, and its first toll road. It ran from Flushing, Queens to Ronkonkoma in Suffolk and passed through Garden City. Mr. Vanderbilt used portions of it for the famous Vanderbilt Cup Races in 1908-10.

The Garden City segment lies between Clinton Road and Raymond Court. The main office for the parkway still exists and is located off Clinton Road on Vanderbilt Court and is now a private residence located just north of Stewart School. Visible from Clinton Road, just north of Vanderbilt Court, there is a berm now tree covered. It was manmade as the approach grade for the Clinton Road Bridge, which carried the Parkway over Clinton Road.

“We would like to install a double gate entry onto Stewart Field and install markers and other visual materials to highlight the historic elements of the Long Island Motor Parkway in some manner that will bring another historic feature to the Village while also helping to serve a practical application for overflow parking on weekends,” Public Works Superintendent Joseph DiFrancisco said.



Village Trustees Begin New Terms, Board Welcomes Newcomer



By Carisa Giardino

Village Justice Allen S. Mathers administered the oath of office to Deputy Mayor Theresa A. Trouvé, incumbent Trustees Robert A. Bolebruch and John M. Delany and Board newcomer, Colleen E. Foley, during the annual organizational meeting held in April.

Trustee Foley represents the Estates section, replacing former Deputy Mayor John DeMaro who did not seek re-election.

Trustee Foley and her husband, Thomas, are both Garden City High School

graduates and raised their four children in the Village. Trustee Foley's long record of volunteer service includes serving on the Garden City Board of Education for 12 years, including six years as president and three years as vice president of the Board. She has also served on the PTA, SEPTA, TWIGs and Welcome Wagon.

Deputy Mayor Trouvé first began representing the Central section in 2012. She was re-elected for the third time to a two-year term and is entering her fifth year of service to the Board and second year serving as deputy mayor. "Our Village is healthy, financially speaking, yet it is and will always continue to be an ongoing challenge to keep our finances under control and, at the same time, maintain the integrity of our infrastructure and the level of services our community has come to expect and enjoy," she said in response to a question regarding the biggest challenges facing the Board. "It is a pleasure to serve on the Board of Trustees, working with all of the fine women and men on the staff of our Village to face and solve the ongoing challenges common to running an incorporated Village successfully."

Trustee Bolebruch, a Garden City resident since 1995, was also re-elected for a third time to a two-year term. A member of the Western Property Owners' Association for more than two decades, Trustee Bolebruch has been employed in the securities industry since 1987, and is currently branch manager at American Portfolios. "I look forward to continuing to serve all the residents of the Village of Garden City as Trustee," he said.

Representing the East, Trustee John Delany replaced outgoing Trustee Dennis Donnelly in 2015. He too was re-elected to another two-year term. He is a retired corporate attorney and insurance executive who earned degrees at both Villanova University and St. John's Law School.

A resident of the Village for more than four decades, Trustee Delany is a former Eastern Property Owners' Association director, former Garden City Library Board Trustee (1985-2006), serving as its chairman from 2003 to 2006, and former member of the Citizens Budget Review & Advisory Committee.



American Legion Hosts Law & Order Awards Ceremony



By Carisa Giardino

Garden City Police Detective Kevin Madden, Special Police Officer David Bliss and Garden City Firefighter Mike Reale all received Law & Order Awards during ceremonies recently hosted by William Bradford Turner American Legion Post #265.

Law and Order Awards recognize the outstanding contributions of top law enforcement, firefighting and emergency medical personnel and units. Frank Tauches, who recently took over as Post commander, thanked Deputy Mayor Theresa Trouvé and Trustee Mark Hyer for attending the ceremony.

In 2017, Detective Madden worked tirelessly to help prosecute a sexual predator for incidents in Garden City and beyond. Cameron McDermott, arrested last year for numerous incidents of public lewdness in Garden City, pleaded guilty in a New York State Supreme Court to first-degree rape and sexual abuse charges stemming from unrelated incidents in Manhattan. In April, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Garden City Police first encountered defendant McDermott in January 2017 after he allegedly exposed himself to numerous females in the Village during a three-month period. At the time of his arrest detectives discovered the defendant was in possession of a cell phone and a MacBook Pro containing several pictures and videos of similar incidents. Detective Madden executed a search warrant and discovered videos and photographs on the defendant's computers and USB drives depicting sexual assaults of two unconscious women inside their Manhattan apartments in 2010 and 2013. "Detective Madden is an excellent example of a great detective," Commissioner Kenneth Jackson said. "He is well respected in the law enforcement community for his abilities, work effort and accomplishments."

Officer Bliss has been a member of Garden City's Special Police force for 36 years. A former captain and training officer, Officer Bliss has accumulated approximately 3,800 hours in service to the community. According to Special Police records, this is the most time on record as a Special Police Officer. "He is very dedicated to serving the community," Commissioner Jackson said.

Firefighter Reale joined the Garden City Volunteer Fire Department in July 2009. Prior to that, he was a member of the Department's Junior Firefighter Program while in high school where he served for three-and-a-half years. During his senior year, he served as the program's Lieutenant.

The Fire Department was Mike's favorite thing to come home to while he was away at college during his first four years in the Department. He served as Assistant Secretary from 2015-2016 and currently serves as Secretary. He is currently an Assistant Adviser for the Junior Firefighter Program and is a member of two other committees: Audits & Systems and 100th Anniversary. In addition, he is currently enrolled in the Driver Training Program on the Heavy Rescue Truck and wants to eventually become a Line Officer.





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The Mayor further recognized veteran Cyril Smith, the Garden City Historical Society and Public Works and Recreation and Parks crews for all their work in relocating the Doubleday plaques to Seventh Street. Walter Hines Page, Doubleday's original partner, was responsible for Doubleday's move from New York City to Garden City. Susan Page Trotman, Mr. Page's great-granddaughter, and her husband, Stanley, attended the ceremony.

"It has been a wonderful journey," Mr. Smith said. "With the help of the Mayor, the Board of Trustees, Department of Public Works, Garden City Historical Society and so many others who made this project happen they are now permanently located fifty feet behind me."

Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi praised the teamwork of the various Village Departments, particularly thanking Richard Freda, supervisor of the Central Garage, and his crew, for building the steel frames both plaques are resting on; Fred Sylvia, general supervisor of the Highway Department, and his team, for moving the plaques to Seventh Street and for positioning and mounting them into the ground; and crews from the Recreation and Parks Department for planting red, white and blue flowers around the plaques.



He also thanked Superintendent of Public Works Joseph DiFrancisco for coordinating the overall effort with his team, plus a multitude of vendors and contractors; and the Board of Trustees for supporting this historic initiative, particularly Deputy Mayor Theresa Trouvé and Trustee Mark Hyer for participating in the planning of the event and the recent site visits it entailed.

Drummers Sarah Colletti and Caroline Feryo from the Garden City High School Band assisted American Legion Commander Frank Tauches as

he read aloud the names of the war dead that served during World Wars I and II, the Korean War, Vietnam and Iraq. Buglers John Blume and Jack McShane played *Taps* under the canopy of the newly installed gazebo.

Joan Nedelka, long time president of the American Legion Auxiliary, perhaps summed up the day best: "I see this day as a three-part symbol of devotion: first, we should honor the dead that made the supreme sacrifice so that we can live in freedom. "Then, it is only fitting that we honor the silent, suffering members of the Armed Forces who returned home physically, emotionally or psychologically crippled. For example, those veterans confined to a hospital such as the 30 men in Ward 8A in the Northport Veterans Hospital whom our Auxiliary adopted ... The third part of this day should be concern for the men and women who are currently serving in our Armed Forces around the world for they are the veterans of the future."



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Careful review of proposed Department spending led to revisions following three budget work sessions in March. The result is a spending plan that includes a tax levy revenue increase successfully capped at 2 percent despite having accelerated several capital projects now slated for completion in 2018-19. The 2 percent tax levy increase is less than the tax cap allowed by the State, Village Treasurer Irene Woo said.

Upgrades to the Garden City Library's security infrastructure, originally proposed for 2020-21, will now be completed in 2018-19, as will renovations to Field 2 at Community Park and various signage replacement projects throughout the Village. Further, the Board agreed to accelerate a portion of the LED lighting project and split the costs over three years. The total amount of capital projects is increasing by \$1.2 million; \$750,000 will be bonded and the balance will be paid for through taxes. Other capital projects included in the \$8.6 million approved plan include investments in new technologies, equipment and infrastructure.

Further, as part of the Administration Department's budget, a \$75,000 capital project for office construction related to the reunification of Payroll and Personnel functions has been reduced to \$25,000 partially due to some available funding in the current year's budget. Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi recommended that the \$50,000 difference be transferred and reallocated to purchase a new Microsoft Exchange Server, which includes the hardware, operating system, licenses and the decommissioning of the old server and implementation of the new server. This results in no net change to the capital request but rather a reallocation of capital resources.

Finance Commissioner and Trustee Stephen Makrinos noted that the Village's tax levy increases over the last four years have averaged only 1.23 percent and budget increases have averaged 2.33 percent, despite the fact that our mandated healthcare costs increased by nine percent and debt service costs increased 22 percent year over year. He acknowledged the evolution the Finance Department has undertaken over the last five years and praised the work of Village Treasurer Woo, Deputy Village Treasurer Darcia Palmer and Village Administrator Suozzi for anchoring the transformation.

"Even with these increases, we have been able to pave more roads, modernize our water distribution systems and invest more in our aging Village infrastructure such as the new Senior Center and the new fields at Community Park and still stay under the tax cap," he said, also praising the efforts of the Citizens Budget Review Advisory Committee and his fellow Finance Committee members, Trustees John Delany and Mark Hyer. "If I continue to look past these numbers, we have seen our Finance Department streamline their procedures, increase fiscal accountability and develop a program to assist our Village Department heads with their budgets. The net effect of these changes will be positively felt in our Village for years to come."

Overall, the budget represents a 3.4 percent increase year over year, mostly due to an increase in debt service, consulting and employee benefits. Salary and benefits represent approximately \$36 million, capital and debt service totals approximately \$6.8 million and consulting, contractual and third party services represent approximately \$4.4 million. On the revenue side, Department of Recreation and Parks programs, fees and rentals, as well as Building Department fees, are estimated to generate \$800,000 and \$2 million respectively. Further, the Village's three Enterprise Funds - Water, Pool and Tennis - are all expected to be profitable.

The Village is also undertaking infrastructure improvements in the Enterprise Funds. For example, an engineering study at the Pool facility reflected needed improvements in 2018-19, including replacement of the building's entire roof and gutter system. In the Water Fund, the Village continues to improve the water distribution system through investments totaling \$8 million. Lowering maintenance costs while improving service delivery, increasing productivity through capital investments in new equipment and technology, managing annual capital borrowing and its effect on future operating debt service and seeking out grants to supplement, replace or reimburse existing funding sources are all continued goals executive staff members seek to achieve year-round. Looking ahead, the Board has asked executive staff to closely monitor overtime.

"The adoption of the 2018-19 budget represents the culmination of a coordinated process that began in December 2017. We are proud of the final result and remain committed to continuing to ensure fiscal accountability and assisting the Department heads throughout the next fiscal year," Ms. Woo said.

Stewart Manor Train Station Platform Work Enters Phase 2



Platform replacement work at the Stewart Manor train station entered Phase 2 in late May. The western half of the eastbound platform (south side of the station) is now re-open and the eastern half is now closed to the public.

Completion of the project is estimated for August 2018. The project scope includes full replacement of both station platforms, new platform shelters featuring artwork displays, new LED lights throughout the station, new signage, security cameras, Wi-Fi accessibility and customer help points where assistance with medical or other

emergency situations can be summoned by the push of a button. New light poles will also be installed, along with new stairs and concrete work, and new speaker systems to improve station announcements and customer communications. During construction, pedestrian traffic will be limited on parts of the platform. Further details on the project will be included in upcoming notifications as dates are finalized.

- Westbound customers must board/exit the rear four cars of the train
- Eastbound customers must board/exit the first four cars of the train
- Work is taking place solely on LIRR property; no traffic detours will be required
- This will not impact service. Timetables will be available at stations and at www.mta/info/lirr

Solar Powered Waste and Recycling Systems Come To The Village

By Carisa Giardino

In light of the recent complaints about litter around town, the Village has purchased 20 new, larger capacity trash receptacles for the business district. Eleven will be placed inside Parking Field 7S while an additional three or four will be added to Seventh Street to supplement the nine new solar powered waste and recycling compactor systems.

While a standard pail may hold 50 gallons, with the compactor a pail can hold up to 150 gallons. These “smart” garbage receptacles are built with cell phones inside them to send a text or email to Village personnel notifying them when the pails are full and need to be emptied. Three of these receptacles will be placed on the south side of Franklin Avenue, two on the north side of Franklin Avenue, one at the St. Paul’s complex, one in the parking lot near Grimaldi’s and V-Spa, one along New Hyde Park Road in the West and one at the Garden City Pool, which will then be relocated once the season ends.

“This is one way to combat litter,” Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi said, further noting that crews from the Recreation and Parks Department regularly check Village common areas. “We are proactively dealing with it.”

It has also come to the attention of the Board of Trustees that several merchants are not properly disposing of garbage but instead leaving it curbside behind their stores. Department of Public Works Superintendent Joseph DiFrancisco is aware of the situation and does have the authority to issue fines. Further, Mayor Brian Daughney pointed out that the eight cameras recently installed in Parking Field 7S will also help monitor the situation. Police Officers will routinely visit merchants to remind them of the Village ordinances regarding disposal of trash.

Revamped Resident Handbook Available On Village Website

At the Village Board's request, public relations consultant Carisa Giardino was asked to review and update the Garden City's Resident Handbook.

The book is provided to new residents upon moving into the Village.

This handbook, among other things, provides a brief history of the Village; emergency telephone numbers; a Village map with key areas of interest; a description of all Village Departments, Boards and Commissions; garbage and rubbish collection schedules; and a listing of some of the more commonly referred to Village Code regulations, including those relating to noise and on-street parking.



The Handbook had not been updated in more than 30 years. A digital version of the Handbook can serve as a quick reference for all residents on the Village website, www.gardencityny.net. Click [here](#) to view the Handbook.

Online Application For Overnight Parking Requests Now Live

In June, the Village of Garden City instituted an online program for requesting overnight parking authorization. The site, which does not require any prior registration, is available to the public via a link on the Village website, www.gardencityny.net or directly at www.gcnyparking.com.

You can access the site and complete your authorization on any device with Internet service.

On-street parking without a permit is prohibited in the Village between the hours of 2:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. However, permission may be granted to residents for special situations, such as house construction, curb/sidewalk construction, medical caretakers, disabled vehicles and guests.

Permission will not be granted for commercial, taxi or livery vehicles. Authorization is restricted to a maximum of five consecutive nights. Overnight permission is not valid during snow emergencies. Please see the Village website for additional restrictions.

The practice of signing in vehicles at Police Headquarters will continue.

If there are any questions or special circumstances, residents may contact the Police Department at 465-4100 to speak to a supervisor.