

VILLAGE NEWS



Village Dedicates Street Sign to Veteran Firefighter



By Carisa Giardino

In early December, the Village unveiled “Chief Vincent E. Cashman Way” during a fitting ceremony at the entrance to Fire Headquarters on Stewart Avenue in honor of the ex-chief who first joined the Garden City Fire Department’s ranks in 1958.

Assigned to Truck Company, Chief Cashman served as a Chief’s aide, Company lieutenant and captain and soon after was elected Third, Second and First Assistant Chief between 1968-1970. A year later, he began serving as Chief of the Department. In addition to his time in Garden City, he also represented the County by serving on the First Battalion District Board and the Nassau County Fire Commission.

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Village Board Chooses Water Tank Style, Awards Bid

By Carisa Giardino

After debating the merits of three water tank styles that were publicly bid upon, Trustees at the Tuesday, December 19, 2017 Board meeting voted unanimously to accept a \$6,738,000 bid from Caldwell Tanks for an all-steel water tank, with an enhanced paint option.

The enhanced paint option should provide significant cost savings over the life of the tank as it will enable the Village to only have to paint the tank four instead of five times, according to Department of Public Works Superintendent Joseph DiFrancisco. Caldwell Tanks is the largest builder of elevated tanks in the world and the only bidder for that style tank.

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Adaptive Swing Seats Installed in All Neighborhood Parks



By Carisa Giardino

After a long day of therapy, nothing makes Garden City resident Audrey McCarton happier than playing on the swings at her neighborhood park. Audrey, who was diagnosed with microcephaly and a CASK gene mutation, is non-verbal and just began walking at two-and-a-half years old.

Audrey, who turned 5 in December, has gotten too big for the park's baby swings.

Audrey's Mom, Tara, requested the Village install an adaptive swing seat at Edgemere Park so she didn't have to travel elsewhere for Audrey to play. Active in the Respite community at St. Anne's Church and president of the Mom's Club, Tara knew the handicap accessible swing would benefit many children.

"This will hopefully inspire other moms with kids with special needs to bring them out and enjoy the park together with our kids' peers. Having this swing and giving our kids the chance to be in an inclusive fun environment with their peers where we can have teachable moments on kindness and love, I can't think of a better time for this swing to be installed," she said.

"I am truly grateful to the treasurer of the Western Property Owners' Association and all others involved that made this request a reality. You have all made such a difference in the lives of these children. You will see the smiles on their faces will tell it all! It is the little things that we as Special Needs Parents learn to appreciate and are eternally grateful for."

"The Department of Recreation and Parks has always provided facilities and programs for the masses. Providing these adaptive swings in all Garden City playgrounds now provides inclusion for all special needs children as well," Kevin Ocker, chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs, said.

He added, "We are so pleased that this segment of our population is now better served and can enjoy a leisure activity with family and friends in their own neighborhood park."

To further cater to Garden City's special needs community, the Department began offering a series of events and activities geared toward special needs adults, ages 18 and up. A Mini Golf Social was held at Garden City Community Park in October and future offerings will include exercise programs, arts and crafts, and other social events.

To read more about Audrey's journey, visit www.audreymccarton.com. For further information about the Department of Recreation and Parks offerings, visit www.gardencityrecreation.org or call Sandy Young at 465-4076.

Officer John Russell Lauded For Great Police Work

By Carisa Giardino

Garden City Police Officer John Russell's keen sense of awareness - even while off the clock - helped Detectives remove a dangerous predator from the streets.

Police Officer Russell while off duty in his private vehicle, on his way to Police Headquarters, observed a vehicle driving unusually slow in a suspicious manner through an adjacent parking field.

He recalled that a similar vehicle was being sought in connection with a number of public lewdness complaints in the Village.

Officer Russell obtained the vehicle's registration and a description of the operator, which he forwarded on to Garden City Detectives.



Officer Russell's keen observations led Detectives to arrest and charge the suspect with six counts of public lewdness and one count of possession of a sexual performance by a child. Further investigation led to a 200-count indictment in August 2017 within New York City by the Brooklyn's DA office, citing multiple victims with multiple counts of predatory sexual assault and first-degree rape. The investigation continues in Nassau County with additional charges pending.

"Police Officer Russell's dedication and preparedness has directly resulted in taking a dangerous predator off the streets of the community he serves and the surrounding areas as well," Garden City Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson said. "This incident is just one example of the superior quality of service Officer Russell, a six-and-a-half-year veteran of the Department, provides to the community. He is truly dedicated to his profession, either when he is on duty or off duty."

The Garden City Board of Trustees applauded Officer Russell's efforts during an October 2017 Board meeting. "We in the Village are lucky to have such dedicated officers working to keep our community safe every day," Mayor Brian Daughney said.

The Town of Hempstead also recognized Officer Russell during the 2017 Police Service Awards ceremony, where he was among 35 officers across Nassau County praised for outstanding service.

"While we live, work and raise our families here in the Town of Hempstead, our dedicated police officers are patrolling the streets to ensure that our quality of life is protected," former Town Supervisor Anthony Santino said.

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Garden City Ex-Chief John Casey was instrumental in making this dedication a reality. “Thirty-nine years ago I was very fortunate to join this Fire Department and he took me under his wing. I’m the luckiest guy standing here because of that,” he said. “This is not a memorial but a celebration of his life and I can’t think of a better way to do it than with a dedication like this, which will last forever.”

Ex-Chief Casey thanked Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi and former Fire Captain and current Village Trustee Mark Hyer for their efforts. “Without these two gentlemen this would have never happened. I passed the ball off to these guys and they did all the work. On behalf of the family and everyone else, thank you very much,” he said.

Although he did not know him personally, Fire Commissioner and Village Trustee Robert Bolebruch said it was easy to see the kind of man he was.



“Chief Cashman, at all times, showed grace and respect for every person he met and embodied all the best qualities of a leader. It was easy to see why he always commanded the respect and love of his fellow firefighters,” he said. “Chief Cashman was a credit to his Department, this Village and his family. He will be truly missed.”

Mayor Brian Daughney, who did know him personally, added, “He was so proud of Garden City and so proud of his family. Vincent, we thank you as a community and we thank his family for sharing him with us.”

Chief Cashman’s grandson, Brendan, unveiled the sign. Fire truck horns rang with pride and a lone bagpiper played *Amazing Grace*.

Vincent Cashman, Jr., who attended the ceremony with family, some of whom came as far as Syracuse and Florida, said the dedication was a great honor.

“For him to be remembered like this forever is terrific. He loved the Fire Department,” he said.

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Additional funding will be needed for construction oversight to be provided by the Village's water consultants, H2M Architects & Engineers, parking lot paving work in the area of the water tower, financing costs and contingency, bringing the total cost of the project to approximately \$8 million. A total of \$8.7 million was budgeted for the tank's replacement. The Board is weighing different financing options including bonding the entire project, paying cash for the entire project or some combination of the two.

A trio of tank styles were originally discussed: a single pedestal tank, a composite steel tank (which was recently accepted in West Hempstead) and composite glass/infused steel tank. Among the concerns with the tank styles that were rejected was the porous nature of concrete in the Northeastern climate and the aesthetics of a composite tank and the larger shadow it would cast. Statewide Aquastore, Inc.'s bid for a composite/glass-infused steel tank was ultimately rejected because the vendor did not meet bid specifications, leaving the Board to decide between an all steel tank and a composite steel tank. The Board ultimately chose the all steel column style tank because of its aesthetics and to minimize any shadow in the surrounding residential neighborhood.

Back in September, Trustees engaged the professional services of H2M to provide engineering services (sampling and analysis plan, field observation, soil investigation, lab testing and soil characterization letter report) associated with the soil quality investigation at the elevated water storage tank facility. Soil remediation in the area is part of the requirements stated in the bid specifications and will be addressed during the construction process.

Originally constructed in 1933, the 84-year-old tank, which is located at Maria Lane and Old Country Road, was last rehabilitated in 1992. Emergency repairs were made to the tank's roof due to leaks and holes in 2015.

Board Hosts Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon

By Carisa Giardino



The Annual Employee Recognition Luncheon, sponsored by the Garden City Board of Trustees, was held at the Senior Center on Golf Club Lane in September. The event honored employees with perfect attendance as well as those who have dedicated years of service to the Village.

Deputy Mayor Theresa Trouvé, along with Trustees Robert Bolebruch and John Delany, joined Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi and Village Department Heads to welcome and recognize the employees in attendance.

After handing out the awards, Deputy Mayor Trouvé spoke briefly, thanking the employees on behalf of the Mayor and Board of Trustees for their work throughout the year to help make Garden City the special place that it is.

Revamped Stewart Manor LIRR Parking Lot Reopens

By Carisa Giardino



The Stewart Manor train station parking lot refurbishment project was successfully completed. The lot reopened in November, just before Thanksgiving.

Valente Contracting Corp. performed all the work pursuant to its existing paving contract with the Village. The work included adding additional lighting, new curbs and new asphalt and bringing the lot in compliance with all ADA standards, including adding compliant sidewalk ramps with detectable surface pads.

“This project substantially improved the conditions of the lot and it also included adding additional energy-efficient LED lighting to improve safety and brought the surrounding sidewalks into compliance with ADA regulations,” Department of Public Works Superintendent Joseph DiFrancisco said.

The Village was planning on repaving the lot this year as part of its road paving program but in talks with the MTA they agreed to reimburse the Village for the cost of repaving, upwards of \$350,000.

“The MTA is currently in the process of refurbishing the Stewart Manor station as part of the third track project. The Village was able to secure the funding from the MTA to cover the entire cost of this project. This was a great example of cooperation between governmental agencies in order to improve services for the residents of Garden City,” Mr. DiFrancisco added.

He thanked John Borroni of the Village Engineering Department for overseeing the project and the MTA for their cooperation and assistance with the project.

