

June 26, 2019

THE MAYOR'S UPDATE

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The Board of Trustees and staff continue to work on numerous projects, including road improvements throughout the Village, including the Nassau Boulevard railroad station parking lot, the water tank replacement project, upgrades to the Garden City Pool, a stabilization plan for the former St. Paul's School building and other matters. I encourage you to attend Village Board of Trustees meetings; the schedule can be found on the Village's website, www.gardencityny.net.

GARDEN CITY'S WATER IS SAFE

There were recent reports from some local news sources, including the *Garden City News* and *News 12*, about an e-coli outbreak in local water supplies. These reports placed blame on the Water Authority of Western Nassau and because they serve a small portion of the Village, Garden City was mentioned as an area with contamination. The Village has spoken directly with the Superintendent of the Water Authority of Western Nassau and we want to make it clear that these news reports are **false and inaccurate**. There was potentially an issue in Long Beach that somehow got mistakenly attributed to the Water Authority of Western Nassau. Rest assured, Garden City's water supply is safe.

Over the past few years Public Works Superintendent Joseph DiFrancisco has spoken about and you've read about emerging contaminants, and more specifically 1,4 Dioxane in the water supplies on Long Island and elsewhere throughout the country. Obviously some areas have more serious issues than others (e.g. Bethpage), but no matter how large or small an issue, when it comes to drinking water every issue is important.

The Garden City Water Department has taken many steps to ensure that the water supply remains safe and meets or exceeds all Federal, State and Local standards. We've done this by investing significantly in the operation and infrastructure to ensure we have the most modern equipment available to help us operate the system and remain ahead of the curve. In addition to meeting the standards we have also taken a proactive approach in looking for ways to address other issues such as emerging contaminants and 1,4 Dioxane.

With State and local agencies contemplating how to address this issue, the Garden City Water Department took a measured approach and moved to put an action plan in place. We took the following steps:

1. We formed a committee made up of experts in the field, consultants and legal advisers to form a plan of action.
2. We hired experts such as Langdon & Associates, who are the leading experts in the country on 1,4 Dioxane. In fact Tom Mohr, an associate literally wrote the book which is considered the "bible" on 1,4 Dioxane.
3. The Village joined in a lawsuit brought by other water departments to hold the companies whose products allowed this contaminant to spread in the water supply be held

accountable.

4. The committee identified the best plan for moving forward with a treatment method.

We have decided to launch a pilot testing program and based on advice from our water consultants it will be at the well site on Clinton Road. It will be a 30-day program and when completed it will give us the information we need to move forward with a full and complete filtration system. As you can see from the cost of the pilot, \$200,000, these treatment methods are going to be costly. If you recall, the Water Department on June 1 raised rates 5 percent; it was done for this reason. With 10 wells in the Village and at least six of them potentially needing new treatment systems it's going to require a significant investment. But rest assured the Garden City Water Department will do all it can to maintain a safe water supply for all its customers.

LIRR THIRD TRACK

The Board has authorized retaining a survey company to assist the Village with analyzing LIRR Third Track surveys and LIRR property right-of-way boundaries and providing such analysis to the Village during the course of the LIRR Third Track Project within the boundaries of the Village.

According to Public Works Superintendent Joseph DiFrancisco, the Village has received concerns and inquiries from residents residing along the railroad tracks because the third track builders have begun staking out property lines. "The Village is now going to do its own survey along the length of the tracks," Mr. DiFrancisco said. He is currently reaching out to engineering firms to perform the work. The final proposal will be submitted to the community fund, which was set up by the LIRR for reimbursement to local communities impacted by the expansion project.

POLICE RECRUIT SWORN IN

Police Recruit James Gunnels, Jr., was born in Howard Beach Queens to Laurice and James Gunnels. He has an older sister, Victoria. James graduated from W.C. Mepham High School and went on to Farmingdale State College where his majors included Criminal Justice: Law Enforcement Technology, Security Systems and Computer Programing and Information Systems. James was a Police Explorer for more than five years, attaining the rank of Captain, and held the position of drill team commander. He was also a children's instructor in martial arts, which he learned over the course of 13 years of training, obtaining a black belt. James entered the Nassau County Police Academy on June 3, 2019. "We look forward to his joining the department upon graduation," Commissioner Ken Jackson said.

NASSAU BOULEVARD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Nassau Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project began this week. The Nassau Boulevard Bridge, a low-hanging bridge, has been the site of many accidents over the years, resulting in train delays in both directions while LIRR crews worked to determine the bridge's safety and structural stability before restoring train service.

Slated to be removed and replaced with a three-track structure, the Nassau Boulevard Bridge

Replacement Project is expected to be complete at the end of October 2019.

From approximately 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. one lane of Nassau Boulevard will be closed. Flaggers and signage will direct drivers to proceed north and south in an alternating fashion along the remaining open lane. In order to minimize disruptions during the busy daytime hours and to accelerate completion of this project, the initial demolition will occur in the overnight hours for approximately the next two weeks.

For the majority of the time, as long as the crews can maintain safe and reliable operations, traffic lanes will remain open during the four-month construction period. As this will be an active construction area and to ensure the safety of drivers, pedestrians and workers, there will be occasional, unavoidable partial and full road closures. Additionally, at least one pedestrian sidewalk under the bridge will remain accessible during the construction period.

Visit www.LIRRExpansion.com for more information about the project. If you have an immediate question about the work in your community, email communityoutreach@LIRRExpansion.com or call the project's 24-hour Hotline at 516.203.4955.

ORIGINAL PROPERTY FOLDER REQUESTS

Residents may request “original hard copy” property folders of records maintained by the Building Department. Please note that this is the only “original” hard copy that the Village maintains, and (for Village record-keeping purposes) is being completely replaced by an electronic “scanned” copy.

While the Department has made every effort to make its newly scanned electronic copies as clear and “readable” as the originals, we recognize there are some documents (amongst the thousands already scanned) which may be more easily read in “hard copy original” form. As a courtesy, the Village is offering your original hard copy to you as the current homeowner. If you wish to have the “original file,” you must show proof of ownership of the property requested. We anticipate a high volume of requests for these folders, so please allow staff ample time to retrieve the folder, which will be released in a timely matter. The Department will notify you when your request is ready for pickup. Folder requests will be held for 30 days after a call back is made. If residents do not pick up their request it will be discarded. This “folder request project” commenced June 1, 2019 and will end December 31, 2019. After that date, only copies made from the scanned electronic copies will be available.

POLICE DEPARTMENT AGREEMENT WITH SECRET SERVICE

The Garden City Police Department has entered into an agreement with the United States Secret Service that will allow a Garden City Detective to be assigned to the Electronic Crimes Task Force. The task force was created to assist the Secret Service in the event of a large scale statewide critical infrastructure cyber-attack which would likely affect the Garden City Police Department and/or Village Government. The Garden City Detective assigned to this task force has already received extensive training from the Secret Service in forensic electronic device evidence collection which has proved vital in solving several high profile cases including

overdose deaths, burglaries and sexual predator cases. This agreement will provide the Detective with additional resources to investigate these types of crimes. Overtime incurred by the Detective as a member of the task force will be reimbursed as well as fuel and equipment expenses. In addition, there will be additional cost savings to the Village; the Department will no longer be required to pay \$3,200 in yearly investigative application licensing fees.

PARKING FIELD 7N PERMITS SELLING QUICKLY

According to Village Treasurer Irene Woo, in two days the Village sold 17 of the 35 parking permits for Parking Field 7N. Village personnel contacted the Hilton Avenue residents interested in purchasing a permit, as per the one-year pilot program approved by the Board of Trustees at the June 6, 2019 meeting. Once the permits are sold, a grace period will go into effect. Upon completion of the grace period - which would likely last a week - police officers will begin issuing tickets to non-permit holders parked in the designated spots. The temporary pilot program of restricted parking on the western side of Parking Field 7N is for a period of up to one year for persons residing in the premises adjacent to Field 7N, at a fee of \$275 for the duration of the pilot program. Signage has been erected in the parking lot. The designated spots will be available to permit holders 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

FRIDAY NIGHT PROMENADES

Enjoy hospitality Garden City style every week this summer as the Village of Garden City and the Garden City Chamber of Commerce once again present “Friday Night Promenades” on Seventh Street. Festivities kick off at 6 p.m. Seventh Street is closed to all vehicular traffic and parking beginning at 5:45 p.m. Enjoy musical entertainment and plenty of activities for the kids, including balloon art and face painting. Tables and chairs will be set up in the street for additional seating and outdoor dining and dinner specials will be offered at local eateries along Seventh Street.

Promenade dates (and themes) are as follows:

- June 28: Country Western
- July 5: Red, White, & Blue
- July 12: Rock of Ages
- July 19: Luau Garden City Style
- July 26: Christmas in July
- August 2: Back to the 80's
- August 9: Motown
- August 16: Mardi Gras
- August 23: Frank Sinatra
- August 30: Peace Love & Music
- September 6: St. Patrick's Day
- September 13: The Big Pineapple Circus