

January 8, 2020

## **Mayor's Update**

### **THE MAYOR'S UPDATE**

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The Board of Trustees and staff continue to work on numerous projects, including preparation of the 2020/21 Village budget, treatment at Village water wells, the stabilization plan for the former St. Paul's School 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](http://www.gardencityny.net).

### **2020/21 BUDGET PROCESS**

2020/21 budget talks continued during a December work session of the Board of Trustees. Projects discussed included renovation of the Edgemere Road fire station, the paving program and Seventh Street parking, including the possibilities of valet parking and a parking structure in Field 7S.

Village Treasurer Irene Woo explained that part of the budget process includes meeting with Department Heads to review the status of existing projects because some current projects will naturally flow into 2020/21. Mrs. Woo also noted that some projects slated to begin in 2019/20 are in the planning stages or in progress, including brick work at the Nassau Blvd. train station, business district paving, various IT improvements in the Departments of Public Works, Building and Finance, renovations slated for the Recreation and Parks Department and St. Paul's temporary protection work. In addition, unanticipated well treatment projects were added during the year. Further, there are some 2018/19 projects that are still being worked on, namely LED lighting, the water tank replacement, digital scanning of records in the Building Department, paving and curbs, etc.

The five-year General Fund capital plan established last year and slated to begin in 2020/21 adds up to approximately \$10.6 million. This total, however, does not include the Edgemere Road fire station project and Seventh Street parking. During this year's budget process, those contemplated projects will be reviewed and updated. The revised capital plan will be presented to the Board during the budget meetings.

While discussing capital projects, it is important to remember that the components of the New York State mandated tax levy limit are lower than last year. The Allowable Levy Growth Factor is 1.78 percent, compared to 2.00 percent last year, and the Tax Base Growth Factor is 0.50 percent, compared to 1.37 percent last year.

## **SENATE HONORS GARDEN CITY POLICE PERSONNEL**

On January 4, 2020, Senator Kevin Thomas recognized veterans, active duty service members, firefighters and law enforcement and emergency responders during a special ceremony at American Legion Post 1711 in Levittown. Sgt. Kevin Reilly, retired Detective Richard Pedone, Detective Kevin Madden and Police Officer John Russell were among those honored. Mayor Theresa Trouvé and Commissioner Kenneth Jackson were in attendance.

Sgt. Kevin Reilly, a 20-year veteran of the Garden City Police Department, received the New York State Senate Liberty Award. During his tenure with the Department he has received numerous awards and citations, including the American Legion Law & Order Award and the Nassau County Municipal Police Chief's Association Distinguished Service Award. He is also a Department Firearms Instructor and Armorer. Sgt. Reilly has spent 23 years with the New York Army National Guard. He retired as a Major in November 2006. He spent six months deployed to Ground Zero after 9/11, one and a half years active duty deployment in 2004 and 2005, and was activated out of retirement in 2008 for two years of active duty deployment to Maiwand, Afghanistan. There, he was Commander of the Police Mentor Team Mongoose, a 12-man team that advised, trained and mentored the Afghan Police and District Leadership. While deployed he was injured when his armored vehicle drove over an IED while on a patrol. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart as well as other awards during his deployment.

Retired Detective Richard Pedone received a New York State Senate Exemplary Service to the Community Proclamation. Detective Pedone served the Garden City Police Department for 33 years, and before that served 10 years with other departments. For 24 years, Detective Pedone served as the Youth Detective and Community Police Officer with the Garden City Police Department. In this capacity he had a tremendous impact on many individuals from school age children to senior citizens.

Detective Kevin Madden and Police Officer John Russell also received New York State Senate Exemplary Service to the Community Proclamations. On January 14, 2017 Officer Russell, while driving to work in his personal vehicle, entered Garden City Parking Field #8, near Police Headquarters. He observed a black Honda Accord driving unusually slow through the parking lot. Officer Russell, having knowledge of a similar vehicle having been involved in multiple cases of Public Lewdness within the Village, observed the vehicle and operator closely for a period of time, obtaining the vehicle's registration and a good description of the operator. He forwarded this information to Detective Madden. After an intensive investigation by Detective Madden, including search warrants, surveillance and the extraction of evidence from multiple electronic devices, a subject was arrested and charged with six counts of Public Lewdness and one count of Possession of a Sexual Performance by a child. The complete and methodical investigation by Detective Madden uncovered numerous other heinous crimes, leading to a 200-count indictment in August 2017 within New York City by the Brooklyn DA's office citing multiple victims, including multiple counts of Predatory Sexual Assault and Rape 1st Degree. Officer Russell's dedication and preparedness and Detective Madden's

relentless investigative work directly resulted in taking a dangerous predator off the streets. The defendant is currently in prison serving a 10-year sentence. These two officers have already prepared for the New York State Sex Offender Hearing, which will be conducted prior to the defendant's release from prison.

### **ONE YEAR OF AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Ambulance service for Village residents through NYU Winthrop officially began one year ago this month. Trustees entered into the two-year agreement with NYU Winthrop to provide service 24 hours a day/seven days a week. Two new ambulances fitted with brand new equipment each have one EMT and one paramedic aboard. Ambulances are stationed at the St. Paul's campus. The Village Police Department has radio connectivity with the ambulances. In addition, two microphones/speakers were installed for efficient dispatching between Police Headquarters and each ambulance unit.

The partnership has been positive for both the Village and the hospital. To date, the service has received more than 1,500 calls and has transported more than 1,100 patients to area hospitals. Residents requiring service can call 911 or the Village Police Department.

### **MONITORING WELLS IN THE EAST**

Work will resume in late January/early February in the East as the Environmental Protection Agency drills wells to monitor underground water pollution caused by a plume from the old Mitchel Field Air Force base that is moving south from that location, according to Public Works Superintendent Joseph DiFrancisco. Garden Street, the intersection of Tremont Street and Garden Street and the intersection of Willow and Tremont streets are the three locations for the four wells. Work will be performed Monday through Friday from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. At least one lane of the street will remain open to vehicular traffic at all times with traffic control, if necessary. During this period, moderate noise in the immediate vicinity is to be expected. No drilling was conducted between November 25, 2019 and January 2, 2020.

### **GRIEVANCE DAY**

The Board of Trustees meeting on *Tuesday*, February 25, 2020 will begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room. Please note the change in day. This day also marks annual Grievance Day in which hearings will be held between 5:30 and 9:30 p.m.

### **LIRR THIRD TRACK UPDATE**

During January, crews will be performing the following construction activities in Garden City:

#### **Nassau 1 Interlocking**

- The Nassau 1 Interlocking, where trains switch from track-to-track, is undergoing substantial improvements, which will include overnight and weekend work
  - LIRR crews working along the right-of-way are elevating the track bed to meet the new height of the new Nassau Boulevard Bridge
  - LIRR work trains will deliver ballast; LIRR work trains and crews will tamp down the delivered ballast
  - During the overnight work, LIRR crews will be out in force and, to maintain their safety, lights, flag personnel, and other precautions will be deployed
- To support construction of the new switches, a second switch is being placed in the roadway on Main Avenue, between Brixton Road and Kensington Road
- Following the installation of the second switch, Main Avenue will reopen fully

### **Merillon Avenue Station Enhancement**

- The western halves of the Merillon Avenue Station platforms (north and south sides) have been rebuilt and reopened. Temporary platforms have been installed to accommodate six-car station access
- Construction crews continue to set pre-cast footings and rebar, pour piers and, ultimately, build the permanent platform, which will accommodate 12-car trains
- New ADA-compliant elevators are being installed at the Nassau Boulevard entrance. As a result, the west sidewalk under the Nassau Boulevard Bridge will be closed throughout the month of January
- Temporary pedestrian crosswalks have been installed along Main Avenue
- Please board and exit all trains (westbound and eastbound) from the first six cars at Merillon Avenue Station

### **Wall Construction**

- 3TC construction teams are continuing the installation of retaining and sound attenuation walls in Garden City, from Nassau Boulevard to Herricks Road along the right-of-way on the north and south sides of the tracks:
- Crews continue to reinforce or install wall sections on top of the existing retaining wall, along the north side of the tracks. Once completed these sections will have a new security fence
- On the south side of the tracks, along Main Avenue between Denton Avenue and Nassau Boulevard, crews continue to install sound attenuation wall panels

### **New Hyde Park Road Grade Crossing Elimination Project**

- Beginning February 3, 2020, New Hyde Park Road will close from Plaza Avenue to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, lasting approximately seven months

- During the road closure, signage and detour plans will be in place, and real-time coordination with NYSDOT will optimize signal timing on Jericho Turnpike. Click [here](#) to see the detour map
- Pedestrian detour routes will be in place to help commuters access the station from both the east and west sides of New Hyde Park Road. Click [here](#) to see the detour map
- Throughout January, construction teams will continue to prep the area for road closure
- At times, New Hyde Park Road may see intermittent lane closures to allow crews to perform preparatory work safely and efficiently
- In advance of any required road closure, the team will make sure to notify the community, and signage and flaggers will direct vehicular traffic while the detour is in place
- The New Hyde Park Road grade crossing in New Hyde Park and Garden City is one of eight street-level crossings to be eliminated as part of the project. The at-grade crossing is being reconstructed to feature a new, five-lane underpass with pedestrian sidewalks on the east and west sides of the underpass, as well as a dedicated left-turn lane from southbound New Hyde Park Road onto Clinch Avenue. Plaza Avenue, between Herkomer Street and New Hyde Park Road, will be realigned and become a two-way street, to improve traffic flow associated with the new signal being installed at New Hyde Park Road and Plaza Avenue

### **Nassau Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project**

- Replacement of the Nassau Boulevard Bridge is largely complete. Intermittent lane and sidewalk closures of Nassau Boulevard may be required as construction crews perform finish work, including reinforcing newly installed abutment tie-backs
- The west sidewalk under the Nassau Boulevard Bridge is closed throughout the month of January. Temporary stop-signs have been placed on both the north and south sides of the right-of-way to protect pedestrian and vehicular traffic during the sidewalk closure

### **New Hyde Park Station Enhancement Project**

- Beginning February 3, 2020, New Hyde Park LIRR Station customers will access a temporary 10-car platform, which will run along 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues, between South 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Covert Avenue
- The temporary platforms will include 8 ADA-compliant ingress and egress points, with 3 ADA-compliant access ramps
- Pedestrian detour routes will be in place to help commuters access the station from the east and west sides of New Hyde Park Road. Click [here](#) to see the detour map

- When the temporary station opens on February 3, more than 100 temporary commuter parking spots will be available at 124 Covert Avenue and the parking lot of the Church of the Holy Spirit, on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Covert Avenue
- Throughout January, crews will complete construction on the temporary station platforms
- 20 commuter parking spaces will be temporarily unavailable for use
- The New Hyde Park Station Enhancement Project will include significant enhancements, developed through input and support received from the local community. Some features include:
  - New platforms to accommodate 12-car trains; platform canopies; new platform furnishings and accoutrements including benches, shelters and signage
  - CCTV security cameras to improve safety
  - ADA-compliant mobility improvements including ramps
  - Wi-Fi; USB charging stations; and digital information displays

### **LIRR Work along the Railroad Right-of-Way**

- In addition and complementary to 3TC's activities, you may see or hear LIRR forces working along the railroad right-of-way. These activities may include:
  - Regular track inspection and maintenance; Rail tie replacement; Grade crossing elimination preparatory work
  - To avoid LIRR service interruptions during peak commuting hours, LIRR work along the railroad right-of-way may take place overnight and on weekends

For up-to-date LIRR service changes and/or changes to station access, please visit [www.MTA.info/LIRR](http://www.MTA.info/LIRR).

### **SIGN UP FOR VILLAGE EMAIL ALERTS**

Stay connected! Sign up for Village email alerts through an online portal on Garden City's homepage. The link is located on the bottom right side of the website, [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net). Provide your name and a valid email address to immediately begin receiving non-emergency updates, including local meetings and events, Village Hall holiday hours, even approved solicitations and road closures. Garden City's website, [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net), is a great online source of information for residents.