

January 15, 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.

SPEED CAMERAS

The Village of Garden City through its elected Board of Trustees has unanimously voted on several occasions to seek authority from the New York State Legislature to allow home rule legislation to allow the implementation of speed cameras on streets within the Village. We have asked that our State representatives obtain State approval for the Village to be granted the power to have five mobile speed cameras. Mobility will allow for placement near schools and other areas as circumstances change.

The ability to utilize speed cameras will be an effective enhancement and supplement to manual police power in deterring speeding and ensuring that speed-related traffic incidents are reduced. Implementation of the technology is considered an adjunct to actual police enforcement and not a means to reduce our force. The Village Board has stated on numerous occasions that the use of technology is for deterrence, not revenue generation. A successful program results in less tickets and therefore less revenue. It will also allow for more flexibility in the assignment of police officers to neighborhood patrol to prevent crime.

So what can you do? Write State Senator Kevin Thomas and State Assemblyman Edward Ra today. We have an easy form that you can use on our village website, www.gardencityny.net, in the Notifications and Alerts section.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY ON BROMPTON ROAD

Garden City Police report the arrest of a Queens man for a burglary that occurred on Monday, December 23, 2019 at 6:53 p.m. in Garden City. According to Garden City Detectives, defendant Segundo Quiroga Puma, 38, entered the backyard of a residence on Brompton Road and attempted to enter the garage through a rear door but was unsuccessful. The defendant removed a folding chair from a shed, placed it against a rear bedroom window and looked into the home. He proceeded to inappropriately touch himself. There were two people in a different part of the residence who were alerted about the incident by their security camera. The victims called Garden City Police. The defendant fled the scene before police arrival. A thorough investigation was conducted

and the defendant was arrested on January 10 and charged with second-degree Burglary (Attempt), third-degree Burglary and Trespassing.

TRAFFIC LIGHT APPROVED

Nassau County Public Works has approved a traffic light for Eleventh Street and Golf Club Lane. Garden City's Traffic Commission first asked the County to study the installation of a traffic light at that intersection in December 2016. Last month, Public Works Superintendent Joseph DiFrancisco received an official letter from Kenneth G. Arnold, Nassau County Public Works commissioner, who advised the Village of their approval. The letter further requests the Village move the street light on the northeast corner of the intersection to allow the County to properly install a handicap crosswalk ramp. In addition, the County is also proposing to install a sidewalk on the west side of Golf Club Lane in order to connect the intersection to the entrance to the Senior Center. They are seeking the Village's concurrence for both of these requests.

PUBLIC HEARING: WATER RESTRICTIONS

The Board will hold a public hearing on February 6, 2020 beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room on a proposed Local Law to amend Chapter 197, Article II (Water Conservation) of the Village Code so as to enable the Superintendent of Public Works to declare a "water shortage" and further restrict water usage in Garden City.

This hearing was rescheduled from January 9, 2020 due to an inadvertent emailing error. The Village Clerk was sent an earlier version of the proposed law, which was subsequently amended. Due to posting requirements for local laws, it is necessary to now post the correct version and hold a hearing on the proper draft.

PUBLIC HEARING: CODE OF ETHICS

The Board will hold a public hearing on February 6, 2020 beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room on a proposed Local Law to repeal Chapter 12 of the Village Code in order to amend the Code of Ethics. Trustees asked the Board of Ethics to update the Code, which began with a "state" model. The Code has been tweaked to better serve the Village. Trustees thanked Board of Ethics members Richard Silver, Valerie Rothschild and Justice Allen Mathers for their input.

PUBLIC HEARING: OVERNIGHT PARKING PERMITS

The Board will hold a public hearing on February 6, 2020 beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room on a proposed Local Law to amend overnight parking permit limitations. This proposed Local Law will directly authorize the Police Commissioner, as chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners, to establish rules and regulations governing overnight parking permits and limiting how long such permits can exist.

555 STEWART AVENUE

Trustees approved an application by the new owner of 555 Stewart Avenue, 555 Stewart Garden City LLC, to amend a previous approval for a proposed 150 residential building in an R-T Zone to show the site plan change from one building with five-plus stories to a site with two buildings at four stories, and related site revisions.

The amended application, including amended site plan, will now be presented to the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Architectural Design Review Board for their approvals prior to final Board of Trustees approval.

2020/21 BUDGET MEETINGS

The Board of Trustees has set the following dates for 2020/21 budget meetings. The meetings will take place in the Village Hall Board Room, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted:

- Work Session 1 – March 10, 2020
- Work Session 2 – March 12, 2020
- Work Session 3 – March 19, 2020 (6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to accommodate Board meeting)
- Work Session 4 – March 26, 2020

SEVENTH STREET SAFETY

During a work session at the December 12 Board meeting, Trustees discussed safety issues on Seventh Street, particularly motorists that oftentimes fail to yield to pedestrians in the three crosswalks and the safety of those enjoying al fresco dining, especially at Leo's and The French Workshop at the east end of Seventh Street as there is no buffer between patrons and an out of control vehicle.

Public Works Superintendent Joseph DiFrancisco has advised the Board that the Village has bollards in stock. "We are prepared to install them to protect the citizens that dine on the corners of Franklin Avenue and Seventh Street, at Leo's and The French Workshop," he said.

The crosswalks are still being studied. Mr. DiFrancisco is expected to have an update at the next Board meeting, scheduled for February 6, 2020.

ST. PAUL'S UPDATE

The Board of Trustees has awarded several bids to continue stabilization work at St. Paul's:

- U. Arias Corp. of New Hyde Park, low bidder, will remove all vines on the St. Paul's Main Building for a total cost \$49,965.76
- Talty Construction, Inc. of Rockville Centre, low bidder, will repair and seal

windows for a total cost of \$39,400

The Board rejected the bid for building stabilization as the sole bidder, Westar Construction Group, Inc. of Syosset, came in \$356,500 over the budgeted amount. According to Public Works Superintendent Joseph DiFrancisco, Village personnel will re-group with CNY, the project's construction manager, to review the bid specs and possibly make some alterations and re-advertise the bid. Five or six companies attended the pre-bid meeting to tour the building, according to Mr. DiFrancisco.

HOLIDAY SANITATION COLLECTION

Residents are reminded that there will be no garbage pickup on Monday, January 20, 2020. The Holiday Week Collection Schedule will be as follows:

	<u>GARBAGE</u>	<u>RUBBISH</u>
Western Half of Village (West of Rockaway Ave)	Tuesday and Thursday	Wednesday, January 29
Eastern Half of Village (East of Rockaway Ave)	Wednesday and Friday	Wednesday, January 29

Residents scheduled for recycling on Monday, January 20, 2020, are asked to put their recyclables out on the holiday.