

February 5, 2020

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.

STOLEN MAIL FROM STRATFORD AVENUE MAILBOX

Based on an Officer's observations, two subjects were arrested for possession of stolen mail from a Stratford Avenue mailbox and possession of a device designed to remove mail from mailboxes. The first subject, a female 29-year-old from Brooklyn, was charged with criminal possession of stolen property, possession of burglar tools, excessive speed and unsafe lane usage. The second subject, a male 24-year-old from the Bronx, was charged with criminal possession of stolen property, aggravated unlicensed operation in the first degree (48 license suspensions), possession of burglar tools and two outstanding warrants.

Commissioner Kenneth Jackson reminds residents that these thefts are occurring from residential USPS mailboxes throughout the Village at all times of the day and night. In most cases, the thieves use a weighted object attached to a string and covered in a sticky substance to retrieve mail out of the mailbox. The thieves are usually looking for checks or other items of value that have been mailed out. The following are recommendations to safeguard your mail:

- Place mail in receptacles inside the Post Office, or hand your outgoing mail directly to your mail carrier
- Do not send cash in the mail
- Use "secure" checks that cannot be altered
- If dropping your mail in a mailbox, drop your mail as close as possible to the collection time listed on the mailbox
- Do not drop mail in the mailbox if you see any sticky substances on the box

The Commissioner would like to remind residents to stay vigilant and report any suspicious activity, persons, or vehicles, at or near, a mailbox. If you see or feel a sticky substance on a mailbox, do not put your mail inside and promptly notify the Police Department. Garden City Police recently arrested two subjects for stealing from a mailbox after an alert resident reported suspicious activity. Any suspicious activity, such as a person or persons reaching inside a mailbox, should be reported to the Garden City Police immediately.

2019-2020 ONLINE TAX PAYMENT AVAILABILITY UPDATE

The online tax payment system for the current 2019-2020 tax year is only available until February 18, 2020. As of February 19, 2020 only water bill payments will be accepted online. Online tax payments will resume on June 1, 2020 for the new 2020-2021 tax year. For current tax balances, or payment methods available, please contact the Tax Department at 465-4156.

PSEG: PHONE SCAMS ON THE RISE

With a recent uptick in the number of reported phone scam attempts, PSEG Long Island again urges residents and business owners to make themselves aware of the tactics scammers use to try to steal their money. Phone scammers have become more prolific and sophisticated in recent years. In many cases, the scammers can modify their caller ID to read “PSEG Long Island.” More than 6,600 calls were reported to PSEG Long Island in 2019, up from 4,088 scam calls reported in 2018.

While recent weeks have seen an increase in the number of scam calls, PSEG Long Island’s awareness campaigns appear to have made customers more alert. In 2015, 8.2 percent of the total number of reported calls resulted in customers losing their money. Since 2018, that number is down to 5 percent.

“Phone scammers want their targets to panic so they don’t think clearly. If you receive a call about a past-due bill, don’t panic. Look for signs that it may not be legitimate, such as a request for a specific payment type or an imminent threat of disconnection,” said Rick Walden, vice president of customer operations, PSEG Long Island. “Our representatives will never demand immediate payment and, though we offer a variety of payment options, they do not include pre-paid debit cards or bitcoin. Additionally, if a customer is scheduled for disconnection due to nonpayment, they will receive written notice on their bill at least 10 days in advance.”

What to look out for

- You receive a call from what looks like PSEG Long Island on your caller ID.
- The caller threatens to shut off your service and demands an immediate payment by pre-paid card, wire transfer or bitcoin.
- The caller informs you that you require a new meter and demands a deposit before the installation can occur.
- You're given a phone number to call back that, when called, may sound similar to PSEG Long Island’s automated call system.

PSEG Long Island will never ask for a pre-paid card, wire transfer or bitcoin. Scammers ask for them because they are untraceable.

What to do

1. Hang up. Do not provide any personal or account information.

2. Call PSEG Long Island at 1-800-490-0025. Never call any number the scammer gives you.

What PSEG Long Island will and won't discuss over the phone

- A genuine PSEG Long Island representative will ask to speak to the Customer of Record.
- If that person is available, the representative will explain why they are calling and provide the account name, address and current balance.
- If the Customer of Record is not available, the PSEG Long Island representative will not discuss the account at all and ask that a message be left for the Customer of Record to call 1-800-490-0025.

PSEG Long Island also cautions customers to beware of scam emails that appear to be bills from the utility. These emails request personal information that could lead to identity theft.

PSEG Long Island does not ask customers to provide personal information online without first logging into the My Account section of www.psegliny.com. Never provide any personal information requested by email. Do not download any attachments, and do not click on any links in the email. Instead, open a browser window, visit www.psegliny.com and log into My Account to get accurate account information, or call PSEG Long Island customer service.

Any customer who has doubts about the legitimacy of a call or email — especially one in which payment is requested — should call the PSEG Long Island directly at 1-800-490-0025 or visit a PSEG Long Island Customer Service Center. Service Centers are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with locations listed on customer bills and online at: <https://www.psegliny.com/myaccount/customersupport/customerservicelocations>.

For more information on various payment scams in the PSEG Long Island service area and around the country, visit www.psegliny.com/scam.

EPA RESUMING FIELD WORK IN THE EAST

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is resuming fieldwork this month that was initiated in October 2019 in Garden City for the eastern plume portion of the Old Roosevelt Field Contaminated Groundwater Area Superfund site. The work is part of an investigation related to EPA's work to address groundwater contamination at the site, and further delineate the groundwater plume to better design the remedy.

EPA's remedy, issued in a March 2018 Record of Decision, calls for a treatment process to remove trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene from groundwater, thereby reducing potential threats to people's health. The field activities include:

- Drilling to install monitoring wells to collect groundwater samples at three locations in the Village of Garden City.
- Drilling on public roads and in publicly accessible areas, creating a temporary work zone, which will include a drill rig, support trucks, and a backhoe.
- Staging of roll-off containers on the street.

Schedule of Activities

Work began on Garden Street, west of the intersection of Grove Street, on October 23, 2019 and ended on November 21, 2019. Activities at the second location on Garden Street, near the intersection of Tremont Street, was slated to begin this week and will last four to six weeks. Upon completion of activities on Garden Street, work will begin on Willow Street, near the intersection of Tremont Street. This work is also expected to take four to six weeks to complete. 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.