

May 6, 2020

### **MAYOR'S UPDATE**

[Mayor@gardencityny.net](mailto:Mayor@gardencityny.net)

The Board of Trustees and I urge you to continue following all CDC and Health Department social distancing directives. If you don't feel well, contact your doctor immediately. If you need immediate medical assistance, call 911. We have a Village email: [mayor@gardencityny.net](mailto:mayor@gardencityny.net) and a telephone number: 516-465-4000. Let us know if we can help you.

### **NASSAU BOULEVARD GRADE CROSSING REHABILITATION WORK**

Beginning Tuesday, May 12, Grade Crossing Rehabilitation is scheduled on the LIRR's Hempstead branch in Garden City. The Grade Crossing Rehabilitation Program is part of the LIRR's Annual Track Program. It maintains a vital interface, assuring safe, smooth rail-highway traffic movement.

- Work will take place the evenings of May 12-14, 2020 from 10:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m.
- Nassau Blvd. Grade Crossing will be rehabilitated and closed to traffic
- Residents may experience temporary construction noise
- Permanent paving will be scheduled shortly after rehabilitation, details to follow

While the work is in progress, LIRR and MTA Police will be on site to facilitate safe traffic control.

### **LIRR THIRD TRACK UPDATE**

Significant progress has been made on the LIRR Expansion Project from Floral Park to Hicksville. While the duration and intensity of work depends on the project element under construction, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Track Constructors team is phasing elements to reduce the amount of disruption in any given community at any given time. During May, you will see crews performing the following construction activities in Garden City (completion dates are subject to change due to developments related to COVID-19):

#### **Permanent Utility Pole Installation**

- As part of the overall project, continued utility pole relocation work is taking place in several communities. Crews from EJ Electric will work during the day and overnight setting permanent wooden and steel utility poles along the railroad right-of-way
- Residents will see crews installing poles from New Hyde Park Road to Tanners Pond Road, Tanners Pond Road to Merillon Station, and Nassau Boulevard heading east to Herricks Road
- Once the poles are installed, crews will be able to safely relocate cables from temporary poles to permanent poles

- Heavy construction equipment, including vacuum trucks, cranes, bucket trucks, and more, are needed for this work
- 3TC is contractually committed to performing ongoing environmental monitoring including air quality, vibration levels, and noise levels

### **Sound Attenuation Walls**

- Sound wall installation on the south side of the tracks, from New Hyde Park Road heading east toward Tanners Pond Road, began this month
- Residents along Greenridge Avenue will see crews performing work along the right-of-way for the duration of this activity
- 3TC construction teams are continuing the installation of retaining and sound attenuation walls in the Garden City community, from Nassau Boulevard to Herricks Road along the right-of-way on the north and south sides of the tracks
- Wall construction and security fence installation on the north side of the tracks is substantially complete
- Sound wall installation on the south side of the tracks, from Kilburn Road to Whitehall Boulevard, is progressing through the month of May
- Noise, dust, and vibration are continuously monitored

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

- Throughout May, construction crews will continue progress excavating and lagging on the north side of the tracks for the installation of tie-backs
- On the south side of the tracks, crews will form, rebar and pour the base slab of the concrete U-structure
- Residents will see crews working both during the day and overnight on this crucial project element to meet the expedited construction schedule
- Noise, dust, and vibration are continuously monitored
- For the remainder of the closure, signage and detour plans are in place throughout the area. [Click here](#) to see the vehicular detour map, and [here](#) to see the pedestrian detour map. To access the temporary NICE Bus route, please [click here](#).
- New Hyde Park Road is expected to be open by Labor Day. [Click here](#) to read more about the progress on this project element

### **Merillon Avenue Station Enhancement**

- Crews install canopy steel on the north side of the tracks and begin to construct the north support building
- On the south side of the tracks, canopy installation is nearing completion and significant progress is being made on the south support building
- Residents will continue to see steel erection for the new ADA-compliant elevators at the Nassau Boulevard entrance. [Click here to see the renderings of the finished Merillon Avenue Station](#)
- To facilitate work, 3TC is utilizing small sections of existing green space, south of the eastbound platform along Main Avenue. This may require material and construction equipment to be placed outside of the existing green mesh construction fence.
- Crews will continue to work on this project element during the weekends
- This area will be restored following the completion of this project activity
- Please board and exit all trains (westbound and eastbound) from the **first six (6) cars** at Merillon Avenue Station and continue to utilize the temporary crosswalks along Main Avenue
- Some parking spots will remain unavailable at Merillon Avenue; replacement parking is provided north of Merillon Avenue Station, along Broadway between County Courthouse Road and Herricks Road, on the south side of the street

### **LIRR Work Along Railroad Right-of-Way**

- In addition 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 more information, visit the post in the Community News section of [LIRRExpansion.com](http://LIRRExpansion.com). For up-to-date LIRR service changes and/or changes to station access, visit [www.MTA.info/LIRR](http://www.MTA.info/LIRR). For up-to-date NICE Bus information, visit [www.nicebus.com](http://www.nicebus.com).

### **UTILITY POLES IN THE VILLAGE**

The LIRR Expansion Project Team has received several inquiries from residents regarding the installation of new permanent utility poles within the Village. The poles

were originally intended for the north side of the LIRR tracks but issues like spatial constraints and utility coordination resulted in the need to install some of the poles on the south side. Although Garden City officials were not required to approve this design change, 3TC is coordinating with the Village to enhance landscaping plans to provide a visual buffer and improve the overall aesthetics of the area. Visit the Village website at [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net) and click on the “LIRR Third Track Information” tab for more details. Below are the locations of the utility poles within the Village of Garden City:

- New Hyde Park Road to Tanners Pond Road: five wooden poles on the south side of the tracks, approximately 55 feet above ground.
- East of Tanners Pond Road to Merillon Avenue Station: 15 wooden poles on the south side of the tracks, approximately 55 feet above ground.
- Merillon Avenue Station to Nassau Boulevard: five steel poles on the south side of the tracks at 93 feet above ground and five wooden poles on the south side of the tracks 70 feet above ground.
- The east end of Nassau Boulevard to Whitehall Boulevard: nine steel poles ranging from 65 to 93 feet above ground.
- Whitehall Boulevard to Herricks Road: 14 wooden poles ranging from 45 to 55 feet above ground.

### **READERSHIP SOARS DURING PANDEMIC**

When the Garden City Public Library closed its doors on March 16th due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it embarked on a plan to increase its digital collection to make eBooks and digital audiobooks available through the Nassau Digital Doorway/Overdrive to patrons who would be sheltering in place at home. The Library also announced the availability of digital cards for those who did not have a valid Library card so that more people could begin using the digital collection. While the Library’s building remains closed, staff has been working remotely to increase the number of adult, teens and children’s items in the digital collection. In addition, the Library has committed increased funding to the digital collection, which has resulted in a greater number of materials, shorter wait times for those materials and an increased number of new users of this service.

During March and April, the Library purchased approximately 1,500 new items for the Nassau Digital Doorway collection, a 750 percent increase over the number of items purchased in January and February. The Nassau Digital Doorway consortium added a total of 16,097 items to the collection during that same time period. Digital circulation in April was approximately 4,200 items, an increase of 1,000 items, which is approximately a 30 percent increase over March. With the additional items added by the Library, as well as other members of the Nassau Digital Doorway, there was an approximate 50 percent decrease in the average wait time to borrow eBooks and digital audiobooks.

Further, social distancing measures have quadrupled the average number of new Garden City users to the Digital Doorway prior to the pandemic announcement. Between February and March new users increased 100 percent, and again 100 percent between March and April. The Nassau Digital Doorway consortium’s 52 libraries saw 11,623 new

users sign on to the Nassau Digital Library between January 1 and May 2, a 178 percent increase over the same time period last year.

There are two ways to download eBooks and digital audiobooks - through Overdrive.com or the Libby app. Learn how to download eBooks and digital audiobooks through the help link on the Overdrive site at <https://help.overdrive.com/en-us/home.htm>. You can also use the free one-tap Libby app to download digital materials. Visit <https://help.overdrive.com/en-us/1307.html> to watch a short video about Libby. Niche Academy is an online learning platform available through the Library's online resources on the Library's website, [www.gardencitypl.org](http://www.gardencitypl.org). There is a ready-to-use video tutorial for Overdrive and Libby at <https://my.nicheacademy.com/nassaulibrary/course/1451>. In case you do not have a library card, apply for one here: <https://nassaulibrary.org/digital-card-application>.

### **LITTER IN GARDEN CITY**

Residents are reminded to use trash and recycling receptacles that are strategically placed throughout the Village to dispose of any unwanted items. During the past two weeks, Recreation and Parks crews have seen an increase in the amount of litter at Village parks, particularly empty water bottles.

“Over the weekend I personally picked up approximately three dozen empty water bottles in our neighborhood parks,” Paul Blake, chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs, said. “Frustratingly, many of these were found dropped on the ground not far from a trash receptacle. Not sure why we’re seeing such an increase in this type of trash, but it’s a bit bothersome.”

Crews have also been asked to alert Mr. Blake if they see an increasing number of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items, such as used gloves and masks, being carelessly discarded. Superintendent of Public Works Joseph DiFrancisco reminds residents that all used gloves and masks should be placed with garbage – not recycling.

### **PINEAPPLE BALL POSTPONED UNTIL NOVEMBER**

In light of current circumstances, the Garden City Chamber of Commerce has postponed the 2020 Pineapple Ball. The new date is November 13, 2020 at the Garden City Hotel. Congratulations to this year's nominees:

- Citizen of the Year: Donald X. Clavin, Jr., Town of Hempstead Supervisor
- Businessperson of the Year: Fred Carillo, 910 Franklin, LLC
- Community Achievement Award Recipient: Peter O’Hanlon, Seventh Street Gourmet
- President’s Award Recipient: Debbie Tavernese, Broadway Bound Dance Center

For more information, visit [www.gardencitychamber.org/pineappleball](http://www.gardencitychamber.org/pineappleball).