

January 2, 2019

## **GARDEN CITY UPDATE - NEWS AND INFORMATION**

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

The Board of Trustees and staff continue to work on numerous projects, including the water tank replacement project, the concept plan for the former St. Paul's School building, Pool infrastructure improvements and other matters. We encourage you to attend Village Board of Trustees meetings.

## **VILLAGE TAX PAYMENT INFORMATION**

The Second Half 2018/2019 tax payments were due by December 31, 2018. All payments placed in the letter slot before the opening for business on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 are being accepted without penalty. Any payment postmarked January 1, 2019 or later will be subject to penalty as required by State law.

## **SEWER MAIN REPAIRS**

You may have noticed we have been repairing sewer mains in numerous locations throughout the Village. This capital project has been undertaken to correct problem areas in our system that would take too much time away from our own Water and Sewer Maintenance Department. We have completed repairs on sections of road on the following blocks:

- Kildare Road, Wilmar Place, Brixton Road, Chester Ave and Weyford Terrace
- We've replaced over 26 feet of broken or collapsed sewer mains along with 4 manholes
- We've also cleaned up some historical irregularities that existed, such as the removal of capped mains that were in place in anticipation of future service.
- In some cases we've found tree roots and limbs buried amongst the laid sewer pipe which appeared to have caused some of the damage.

## **BOLSTERING NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE PATROLS**

In 2018, the Garden City Police Department hired seven new police officers, one of which is currently in training and slated to graduate the academy in approximately four months. Maintaining the Department's complement at 52, coupled with cameras strategically placed in the downtown area, has aided the Department in bolstering neighborhood patrols.

Further, once ambulance service begins this month, this will further aid the Department in keeping officers on the streets. Previously, the Village had an agreement with Nassau County to provide ambulance service, with one ambulance stationed at the Garden City Water Works building. The provision of services from the County required that a Village police officer leave the scene and travel with the ambulance to the hospital, thus losing the services of the officer for an extended period of time. From an operational perspective this loss of a patrol officer was no

longer economical and lessened police coverage on our streets. The switch to a private service provider was one of the items on the Board's priority list adopted in 2017.

### **INVESTING IN RECREATION AND PARKS FACILITIES**

As the Department of Recreation and Parks continues through year three of Phase I of the Strategic Plan, emphasis is placed on building renovations and additional athletic field improvements. Over the past six months the exterior and interior renovation of the Edgemere Park building has been completed. In addition, upgrades to Field #1 at Community Park have been completed as well. Looking ahead to spring 2019 we anticipate the completion of the interior renovation of the St. Paul's comfort station, the complete renovation and improvement of Field #2 at Community Park, including a synthetic turf infield, and the completion of the Community Park inclusive playground. In addition, over the next several months, in-house staff will be completely renovating the baseball field at Tullamore Park and will be completing the interior renovation of the Grove and Hemlock parks buildings.

### **BUDGET WORK SESSIONS**

Formal budget meetings to review the proposed 2019/20 Operating/Capital Budgets will be held in March. Residents are encouraged to attend and participate. All work sessions will be held 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room, unless otherwise noted. The schedule is as follows:

- Work Session 1: March 7, 2019
- Work Session 2: March 12, 2019
- Work Session 3: March 21, 2019
- Work Session 4: March 27, 2019 (if needed)

While personnel always tries to identify capital projects, Mayor Brian Daughney suggested Department Heads take a closer look at day-to-day, quality of life issues as well. He also encouraged continued focus on overtime and does not want to see high budget requests for overtime pay. Trustee Stephen Makrinos, Finance and Audit Committee chairman, further suggested re-visiting deferred projects to see if it makes sense to continue deferring them or "pay the piper" and do the projects now.

### **BLOOD DRIVE AT THE LIBRARY**

Long Island Blood Services will hold a blood drive at the Garden City Public Library on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 from 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the large meeting room on the lower level of the Library. Area hospitals are in need of local residents' help. Each donation can help to save up to three lives. Donors will receive a McDonald's coupon for a free large sandwich. Eligible donors must be between 16 and 75 years of age, with a minimum weight of 110 lbs and no tattoos within the past 12 months. Sixteen year olds must have parental permission and donors age 76 and over must present a doctor's note. All donors must have valid ID with signature or photo. Donors are encouraged to eat well (low fat) and drink fluids. For medical questions concerning blood donations, call 1-800-688-0900. Walk-ins are welcome.

## **COLLECTION OF CHRISTMAS TREES AND WREATHS**

A reminder to residents who have a natural Christmas tree or wreath to dispose of - please leave them at the curb on your regularly scheduled recycling collection day. They will be collected by the Department of Public Works and rendered at the Village Yard for use around trees and shrubs as mulch. Please assist the Village by removing tree stands, strands of electric lights and plastic bags from the discarded trees and cooperate with your neighbors by disposing of them only on the scheduled recycling collection days.

## **ST. PAUL'S UPDATE**

The Board of Trustees is continuing to develop the concept plan presented to the public last summer for creating a recreation, sports and community center at the former St. Paul's Main Building, combined with anticipated upgrades to Cluett Hall.

Currently, the Board is in the process of selecting an "owner's representative construction manager" that will help guide the Board through initial steps of assessing the building, developing a course of action and construction plans and costs. The Board hopes to retain the construction manager within the next 30 days.

Concurrently, Sports Facilities Management and Advisory, previously retained by the Village, will be meeting with various groups, including the Commission on Cultural and Recreation Affairs, local sports and culture groups, seniors, and also undertaking market analysis, to assist the Board with determining the proposed programming facilities to be included the final plans. Both the construction manager and Sports Facility Advisory will be working throughout the next few months to assist the Village in developing a final plan, cost estimates and forecasting for future operational expenses.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is Thursday, January 17, 2019 beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room. Residents are encouraged to attend.