

February 6, 2019

GARDEN CITY UPDATE - NEWS AND INFORMATION

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The Board of Trustees and staff continue to work on numerous projects, including plans for the upcoming budget, the LIRR Third Track and its impact on Garden City, the water tank replacement project, personnel matters, zoning matters, the concept plan for the former St. Paul's School building and other matters. We encourage you to attend Village Board of Trustees meetings and meetings of your Property Owners' Associations. Meetings of the Property Owners' Associations are held almost every month – please check their respective websites.

PROPOSED STATE AID CUTS FOR VILLAGES

Although the State of New York has, for several years, mandated a tax cap levy of 2 percent (the actual “tax cap” concept is more complicated and can fluctuate yearly), the recently proposed budget submitted by the Governor's office included proposals to cut State-level aid provided to villages and other local municipalities. Under State law, we also have to pay for state-mandated programs and benefits such as pension and health care costs for employees, which increases are well in excess of the 2 percent cap. Given that employee-related costs (pay and benefits and ongoing obligations) are approximately 65 percent of the Village's budget, the Village is continually struggling to control expenses and maintain services, and seek additional or new sources of revenue.

Under this proposal, the Village would lose \$207,449 in aid this year. Based upon last year's Village budget of approximately \$60 million, this decrease represents approximately a .3 percent gap in Village finances. Although it may seem a small amount in terms of percentages, the sum of \$207,000 has a significant impact on the village's ability to provide services or add services that residents often request.

LIRR THIRD TRACK UPDATE

Construction of key elements of the LIRR Expansion Project (Third Track) are underway in a number of nearby communities, including New Hyde Park and Mineola. Construction work in the Village of Garden City is also approaching. Here is some information from 3rd Track Constructors, which is designing and building the project, that residents will find useful.

Current timeline for major construction in and around the Village of Garden City:

- o March 2019 – May 2020: Merillon Station
- o April 2019 – October 2019: Covert Avenue Crossing (New Hyde Park)
- o June 2019 – September 2019: Nassau Blvd. Bridge
- o October 2019 – July 2020: New Hyde Park Road Crossing
- o August 2020 – December 2021: New Hyde Park Station
- o December 2020 – April 2021: Denton-Tanners Bridge

New Hyde Park Road Grade Crossing:

Unlike the other six grade crossing projects in the LIRR Expansion Project, New Hyde Park Road will remain open during construction. A temporary two-lane road running north-south will be built west of New Hyde Park Road to make this possible. The first stage of this project will be to relocate utilities – including electric, gas, water and others – that currently run beneath and above ground in the area. Utilities will all be moved west of New Hyde Park Road to allow for a new four-lane underpass beneath the tracks. This utility work will take place at various locations at and near the New Hyde Park Road crossing and will be done by the utility companies. Utility work is expected to begin in February 2019 with major construction of the project beginning in October 2019.

Merillon Station:

The last major improvements to Merillon Station took place 60 years ago -- essentially a new station in a “traditional” aesthetic with considerable landscaping enhancements will be built. Station platforms will be lengthened to accommodate 12 cars instead of the current 10. The station will remain open during construction, which will begin in late March or April 2019 with the demolition and rebuilding of half of the platform on one side. The north LIRR station parking lot will remain open during construction and permit parking spaces along Main Avenue on the south side will remain available and not be significantly impacted. Adjacent to Merillon Station, the Nassau Blvd. Bridge will also remain open, other than short-term closures during the replacement process.

For questions and comments, contact 203-4955 or CommunityOutreach@LIRRExpansion.com. Additional information is available at www.lirrexpansion.com.

MILLING AND PAVING WORK

As part of a Nassau County Department of Public Works resurfacing requirements contract, parts of Old Country Road, from Glen Cove Road to Franklin Avenue, is being milled and paved this week. The right lane in a westbound direction will be closed on Tuesday, February 5, and Wednesday, February 6. This work was originally scheduled to take place in mid-January but was delayed due to the weather and frigid temperatures.

WATER TOWER REPLACEMENT UPDATE

The Village continues performing prep work for the water tower replacement project off of Old Country Road. Please be advised that in preparation for the water tower demolition, the Garden City Water Department is performing system tests that could affect the entire Village. While this is being done, residents may experience some temporary disturbances in water service, similar to when hydrant flushing occurs.

This prep work is fluid and unfortunately cannot occur at any time during the day. Due to this, residents and businesses may experience temporary fluctuations in water pressure and/or temporary water discoloration during the course of the day. However, the water is safe to use. We anticipate these inconveniences to last up to a week to ten days. Here are some recommendations residents can follow in preparation:

- Draw water for cooking ahead of time
- Store bottles of water for drinking
- Be sure to check the water quality before using your washing machine or dishwasher

In addition, you might also notice fire hydrants in your area open and flowing. This is part of the work being done, and it will have no effect on fire protection in your area. Last week the Village opened the connection to the West Hempstead system and flushed the pipes in the Cambridge Avenue and Nassau Boulevard area. We will be opening additional interconnections this week. If you have any questions you can contact the Garden City Water Department at 465-4020.

Demolition of the actual tower is slated to begin in early February, after the Village finishes replacing valves and completing other related work to allow for the Village to rely on pressure from West Hempstead's water system and provide access to the site. Our contractor also received notice from Nassau County that certain air and ground monitoring will be required to be implemented throughout the process. Our contractor is reviewing the requests and will need to develop a plan to comply or work with Nassau County to modify the proposed action plan. This process could delay demolition of the existing tower by a few weeks.

As a side note, the new tower has been designed to allow for the placement of cell and related equipment, which can generate revenue for the Village and also be used to improve emergency services communication. The new tower is expected to be completed by early spring 2020.

ST PAUL'S CONCEPT PLAN UPDATE

On January 22, 2019, the Village Board of Trustees held a much publicized work session at the Senior Center to hear from and interview three proposals from three nationally recognized firms to work with the Village as construction managers for analyzing and developing the concept plan for the St. Paul's buildings. Regrettably, only a handful of residents attended the work session and participated. We understand that residents are busy with their families, work and the like, but we again ask that residents try to participate and attend meetings and get correct information instead of relying upon third-hand information, which is often inaccurate.

The Village Board is reviewing the proposals and hopes to select one of the proponents in the next two to three weeks. As a further update, during the week of February 25th, Sports Facilities Management and Advisory will be in the Village to meet with various groups such as local dance and performance groups, the Recreation and Cultural Affairs Commissions, GCAA, Centennial Soccer, GC Lacrosse, RAMS football, the Property Owners' Associations and seniors and other Village-based groups to discuss the concept plan and get input regarding potential uses and facilities and the economic market for such facilities which may be included. We urge you to schedule ahead to participate and hope you can participate. Currently, many of these meetings are scheduled to be held at night but the schedule is being developed and will also include some day meetings at the Senior Center. The meeting with the four POA groups will be Monday night, February 25, 2019 at Cluett Hall at 7:00 p.m. Further information to follow.

The Board of Trustees and staff is also taking steps to board up or close access points to the Main Building and also preserve and protect the stained glass windows in the former chapel. The

Village's architectural consultant recommended an expert firm to assist and the Village also made inquiry to the Cathedral, which happened to recommend the same firm. The expert firm is visiting the site this week and will provide advice to the Village.

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)

BLOOD DRIVE

The Village of Garden City and the Garden City Fire Department will hold a blood drive on Friday, February 22, 2019 between 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. in the second floor meeting room of Fire Headquarters, 347 Stewart Avenue. All donors will receive a coupon for a free large sandwich or salad at McDonald's with another purchase.

To be eligible to donate, you must be between the ages of 16 and 75 (16 and 17 year olds must have parental permission). You must bring your blood donor card or ID with signature or photo. No tattoos for the past 12 months. Minimum weight 110 lbs. or more. Eat well and drink lots of fluids. For questions concerning medical eligibility, call 1-800-688-0900 or visit www.nybc.org.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The next scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is *Wednesday*, February 13, 2019 beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Board Room. Two public hearings on proposed Local Laws are scheduled. Residents are encouraged to attend.

One hearing will consider a proposed Local Law to authorize the Village to adopt a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law to permit the Village to override the State-imposed property tax levy cap for the Fiscal Year commencing June 1, 2019. Village Counsel Peter Bee emphasized that this Local Law does not raise taxes nor does it direct the Board of Trustees to raise taxes but is a protective Local Law proposed to allow the Board to raise taxes above 2 percent if and only if the Board determined that it was appropriate to do so when enacting the budget.

The other hearing will consider a Local Law to attempt to limit the ability of anyone, including utilities such as PSEG and National Grid, to dig up recently paved roads in the Village. The law would require the repaving of the road, curb to curb, not just the portions dug up. Specifically, the amendment prohibits, short of an emergency, permits being issued for street openings for streets that were repaved in the last three years or newly paved in the last five years.

The Village Board and staff are always considering issues or topics for possible action. For example, the Village Board and Building Department are considering changes to our local building code regarding pools at residences. Those rules have been unchanged for decades. We have requested and received some input from the Village's Zoning Board of Appeals which deals with pool requests. No formal actions or changes have been proposed as yet. We are always considering and analyzing the methods, costs and effectiveness of providing services, and uses of facilities and manpower, whether it be our water system, our garbage collection system, leaf pickup, police services, the viability of the pool facility and many other topics. The budget meetings are a valuable source of information for these types of discussions and we hope that residents attend.