

November 30, 2022

## **THE MAYOR'S UPDATE**

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

### **LIRR COMMUNITY BENEFITS FUND**

The Board has appropriated \$1,636 million from surplus capital funds to fund the Merillon Avenue Improvements Capital Project in order to allow for the Village to apply for the LIRR Expansion Project's Community Benefits Fund and to begin work on the MTA Community Fund Project. Up to \$50,000 could be used for additional landscaping along the platform east of Meadbrook Road and to be used to build the road design, which was publicly presented at an earlier Board of Trustees meeting. According to Village Treasurer Irene Woo, the Village must fund the project with its own resources before it can seek reimbursement. The LIRR Expansion Project's Community Benefits Fund is designed to provide the communities adjacent to the LIRR Main Line with funds that they may use, subject to certain conditions and limitations, to go beyond the commitments made in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and further offset impacts to such localities caused by construction of the project.

I am in favor of the concept of creating a landscape buffer. I am not in favor of spending surplus capital funds when specific costs for the proposed scope of work have not been vetted. The only hard cost the Village has received to date is for the custom light fixture baffles to be installed at the North station platform. The baffles were mocked up on site and will mitigate objectionable light affecting Village residential properties. Since we do not have documented final costs from the LIRR and the Village, I changed my initial vote and voted not to appropriate \$1,636,000 million from the capital surplus fund. I have requested an itemized cost for each proposed scope of work item regarding the proposed road design changes. Moreover, with itemized costs, the necessity of the various project components can be better determined.

### **ST. PAUL'S ESTIMATOR**

The Board engaged Westerman Construction Co., Inc. to provide comparative analysis - building alteration and renovation vs. demolition of the St. Paul's School Main Building at cost of \$69,000. Request for Proposals (RFPs) were sent out to a total of 11 firms; three responded. The engagement of this firm will allow the Village to move forward in the evaluation of St. Paul's and to establish a date for a resident poll. The Board also conducted a work session on Wednesday, November 30 along with the St. Paul's Committee and the public to further discuss the details of the tasks for the project.

### **HOLIDAY PATROLS**

This holiday season, the Garden City Police Department, along with various other Police Departments throughout New York State, is participating in the STOP DWI Enforcement Initiative targeting Intoxicated and Drugged Drivers. This initiative will be enhanced by funds provided by the Nassau County Traffic Safety STOP DWI Program and the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson states, "During this initiative, the Department will be deploying extra patrols on Village roadways, strictly enforcing all DWI and impaired driving laws. These patrols play an important part in preventing holiday tragedies that seem far too common." As a result of our Holiday DWI Patrols during the Thanksgiving weekend, Police arrested four individuals for DWI. Commissioner Jackson urges everyone to be responsible when attending holiday parties. If you choose to drink, make arrangements to have a sober person, taxi, or ride share program take you home. The Garden City Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

### **555 STEWART AVENUE**

Florent, the two, four-story apartment building complex being built at 555 Stewart Avenue, is progressing nicely. Framing for building 200 is 95 percent complete while framing for building 100 is 40 percent complete. Plumbing, electrical, fire safety and HVAC work is also progressing in each building. The windows, doors and roof on building 200 is 90 percent complete. Focused complete date is the summer of 2023. Florent will host 15 affordable housing units at 40, 60 and 80 percent AMI. The initial prospective tenant selection will occur via lottery 60 days before anticipated certificate of occupancy. The Long Island Housing Partnership will advertise across the defined area. For more information about Florent, visit <https://liveflorent.com>.

### **CORROSION CONTROL STUDY**

According to H2M, the Village's water consultant, 574 samples have been requested by residents; 573 sample kits have been delivered. H2M has also collected/returned 485 bottles. Pace Analytical completed 458 sample analyses and transmitted results to residents. Orthophosphate is being injected into the water system. The District is taking entry point and distribution sampling to monitor orthophosphate treatment.

### **ASH TREES**

Back in August, Recreation and Parks Commissioner Paul Blake advised the Board that all Ash trees in the Village needed to be removed after an infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle, which is drilling into the trees' feed stream and killing them. Unfortunately, no pesticide can kill the beetle. Parks crews have been removing dead or dying trees. A recently approved contract with Dom's Lawnmaker, of Port Washington, will enable the removal of 114 of the largest and most dangerous Ash trees on major thoroughfares in the Village.

### **BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS**

There have been several recent burglaries reported throughout Nassau County. With days getting darker earlier and the upcoming holiday season, the Garden City Police Department urges residents and business owners to take extra precautions in protecting their premises. To assist, Garden City Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson offers the following recommendations:

- If you have an alarm, use it at all times, even if you are leaving the residence for just a few minutes.
- Trim overgrown shrubbery and trees where someone would be able to conceal him/herself.
- Check exterior lighting. This includes the back and sides of the home. Ensure they go on at dusk.
- Check windows and door locks; make sure they are in working order.
- Keep all doors and windows locked when you are home, away or just in your back yard.
- Homeowners should consider additional locking devices specifically for sliding doors, as well as alarms.
- Move and secure items that could be used to facilitate entry through ground floor windows.
- Close your drapes, blinds and window treatments at night as a deterrent.
- Surveillance and alarm systems should be routinely checked to ensure proper operation.
- Consider a panic alarm or keeping a telephone near the bed.
- Leave an interior light on or use a timer. Leave a radio or television on when out of the house.
- Discontinue any deliveries while away on business or vacation.
- Ensure that deliveries delivered to your residence are removed promptly by a family member or neighbor.
- Inventory, photograph and have an appraisal conducted on valuable items.
- When approaching or leaving your home, be aware of suspicious persons or vehicles.
- Varying your routine can be an additional deterrent.
- Do not enter your residence if you think someone may be inside; notify the police immediately.
- If you hear or see someone in your home, exit if you can and discretely call the police right away.
- Do not try to confront the intruder.
- If a burglar does confront you, remain calm; comply with the burglars' instructions. Remember your life is more valuable than your property. Try to memorize a description of the subject. When the subject leaves, call the Police by dialing 911.

In addition to these recommendations, the Garden City Police Department urges all residents to be aware of suspicious activity around them, and to call 911 promptly during the following situations:

- Call when your alarm or a neighbor's house/car alarm goes off.
- Call when there are suspicious noises or persons in your yard or a neighbor's yard.
- Call when you see a suspicious person and/or vehicle.
- Try to obtain a plate number and a good description of suspicious vehicles.
- Try to obtain a good description of all suspicious persons and/or possible suspects.
- Call when you observe activity at a neighbor's residence when you know they are away.
- If you see a door or window to a neighbor's home ajar, open or broken, call the police.
- If you see a neighbor's car door or window ajar, open or broken, call the police.
- Call when your dog barks due to some type of activity outside, particularly at night.

Neighbors can help the Police Department in the prevention of burglaries and apprehension of suspects. There have

been numerous incidents where the keen observation of residents has resulted in the apprehension of persons committing criminal acts. In addition, residents with surveillance systems are encouraged to notify the Police Department when it is possible their system recorded a crime or other suspicious activity either on their property, in the street or on an adjacent property. Surveillance systems, such as video systems, Ring cameras, and Nest cameras, have proven to be significant tools in the prevention of criminal acts, as well as in the apprehension of suspects.

#### **TOYS FOR TOTS PROGRAM**

With the holiday season upon us, it is the time to reflect upon how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to share these times with family and friends. As you may be aware, there are many children who are not so fortunate. In an effort to bring some happiness to families who will not have the resources to provide a gift for their child this year, the Garden City Police Department has a gift depository for the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Toys for Tots Program. In the spirit of giving, I ask that if you are able to do so, please drop off any unused, unwrapped gifts into collection boxes in the lobbies of the Garden City Police Department and Village Hall. Your generous gifts, no matter how small, could make a difference to a child. Thank you in advance for your support of this most worthwhile program. Last year, the Department collected several boxes of toys that were distributed to children by the Marines.

#### **VILLAGE TREE LIGHTING DECEMBER 4**

The Village and Chamber of Commerce will hold the annual Village Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 4, 2022, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Holiday music will be provided by the Music Academy Foundation and the Garden City High School Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Broadway Bound dancers will also perform. The event will also feature a special visit from Santa himself.