

November 17, 2021

THE MAYOR'S UPDATE

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LEAD UPDATE

The Village of Garden City was recently notified of a high lead level in a home in Garden City. The Village contacted the Nassau County Health Department immediately for information and any guidance and simultaneously conducted tests for lead at each of its active well sites where the treated water enters the Village-wide distribution system. Those tests came back Non-Detect for lead and the results were shared with the Health Department. In conversations with the Health Department, preliminary results indicate that the home in question has a lead service line that attaches to the Village water main. We are awaiting a final report from the Health Department's investigation and any recommendations that may be forthcoming. The Village has conducted all required lead and copper compliance mandates as required under the Federal Lead and Copper rule, including the most recent sampling conducted in 2020, and was found to be in compliance. The Village is aggressively monitoring the water supply and is in regular communication with the Health Department during their investigation.

VILLAGE MEET AND GREET NOVEMBER 30

To further increase engagement with residents, the Village Governance Committee is sponsoring a monthly Meet and Greet. It will be held the fourth Tuesday of each month although the first meeting will be held on November 30, 2021 at the Village Senior Center from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This is a chance for residents to engage directly with the Board of Trustees members without going through any third parties or having to wait until the end of a Village Board meeting. We hope to have a maximum of three Trustees at each meeting to avoid any violations of the Open Meetings Law. These meetings will not have an agenda; Trustees will be available to discuss multiple issues and concerns.

BURGLARIES

The Garden City Police Department recently investigated two residential burglaries that occurred during the early evening hours on November 11th. During one incident, the suspect rang the doorbell and when there was no answer, walked around the home and found an unsecured door. The subject entered the home and removed numerous pieces of jewelry. In the other burglary, the subject(s) entered the residence by breaking a rear window and fled when it was discovered a resident was home. There was one item reported stolen from this home. These incidents appear to be part of an ongoing burglary pattern that has been prevalent in numerous North Shore communities in Nassau County. Suspects check for residences that appear to be unoccupied, usually during early evening hours (5:00 – 9:00 p.m.). Homes having no lights or televisions on, at times when they are usually on, give the appearance they are unoccupied. In many evening burglaries, some homeowners leave their residence for just a short period of time without setting the alarm, leaving a door unlocked, and without leaving interior lights and/or televisions on. Considering this ongoing burglary pattern throughout Nassau County, additional marked and unmarked patrols have been deployed. In addition, 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 themselves.
- Check exterior lighting, this includes the back and sides of the home. Ensure they go on at dusk.
- Check window and door locks; make sure they are in working order.
- Check your Ring camera or similar device when you receive a notification of activity near your home.
- Keep all doors and windows locked when you are home, in the back yard, or away, even for just a few minutes.
- 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 keep 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 deliveries to your residence are removed promptly by a family member, friend, 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 Police immediately 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 call 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.
- Call if a vehicle is observed continually driving up and down the street for no apparent reason.
- 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 residence 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 where there is some type of activity outside, particularly in the evening or at night.

Neighbors can help the Police in the prevention of burglaries and in the 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.

WATER UPDATE

Water Tower: The Village's security company provided details/drawings of what they require from the electrical contractor for their work. A meeting has been scheduled between H2M, the contractor and the Village to discuss lack of progress.

Discolored Water Complaints: H2M is mapping discolored water detections and investigating complaints as they are registered.

Well 7 (Waterworks site): The contractor provided change orders that were requested during construction. Permanent construction to be incorporated with permanent construction of Well Nos. 8 and 12.

Wells 8 and 12 (Rockaway Avenue site): H2M is reviewing brick selection for H2O2 canopy with the Village. H2M is expected to have final documents for permanent buildings by early December.

Well No 9 (Wilson Street site): The Nassau County Health Department endorsed engineering report has been sent to the New York State Department of Health. A soil investigation was conducted. The report is currently under review and will be submitted to the Village. Design of the facility continues.

Wells 10 and 11 (Clinton Road site): Extended casing of Well No. 11.

Wells 13 and 14 (Garden City Country Club site): Received approval from the New York State Department of Health to operate wells with treatment to system. Wells 13 and 14 are able to run to system through treatment. Well 13 is currently running to system without treatment. H2M recommended emergency contract for construction of GAC buildings. Renderings have been prepared and were submitted to the Village. A meeting has been scheduled with the Village and Country Club to finalize work.

Wells 15 and 16 Hilton Park site): Installed the generator, continued with site regrading and installed electrical cabinets.

BLUE WATER INVESTIGATION

The Village water consultant, H2M, completed four weeks of system-wide sampling of pH and alkalinity while reviewing copper levels in the distribution system. pH increases have been stable systemwide. A full report on the findings from the four weeks is expected to be sent to the Village for review before Thanksgiving. A new email address has been established so you can submit any discolored water issues. Please email your complaint to waterissues@gardencityny.net. Include your contact information and an explanation of your complaint. If you have the ability to send a photo as well please do. If you do not have or do not wish to use email, call the Water Department at 465-4020 and leave a message with your name, address and contact phone number. All emails and information will be forwarded immediately to the Village Water consultants at H2M who are collecting the information, obtaining water

samples as needed and following up to help identify potential causes and solutions.

UTILITY SCAM AWARENESS WEEK

November 15-19 is Utility Scam Awareness Week, an advocacy and awareness campaign focused on educating customers and exposing the tactics used by scammers. More than 4,085 scam calls were reported to PSEG Long Island in the first 10 months of 2021, down slightly from the more than 4,300 calls reported at the same point in 2020.

What customers should know about payment scams

- Scammers impersonating PSEG Long Island most frequently threaten to shut off power immediately unless payment is made.
- Many scammers use phone “spoofing” technology to make their number display on your phone as “PSEG Long Island.”
- PSEG Long Island is not currently shutting off residential customers for nonpayment.
- Residential and small business customers can still obtain state-mandated protections from shutoffs through Dec. 21 by calling PSEG Long Island at 1-800-490-0021 and attesting to financial hardship caused by the pandemic.
- PSEG Long Island will never request that customers use one specific method of payment.
- Scammers typically want their victims to transfer money via a web-based electronic payment service, a prepaid debit card, or even Bitcoin, sometimes asking people to buy a prepaid card at the nearest convenience store and then to read them the PIN over the phone.
- PSEG Long Island does not accept web-based electronic payment services, prepaid debit cards or Bitcoin as payment.
- Sometimes phone scammers will demand a deposit for a priority meter installation. PSEG Long Island does not require a deposit for meter installations.
- If a customer has doubts about the legitimacy of a call or an email — especially one in which payment is requested — call the company directly at 1-800-490-0025.

In-person visits from PSEG Long Island

PSEG Long Island field representatives have begun visiting residential customers with past-due account balances to discuss payment methods, accept a payment or work out a payment plan to pay down balances over time. PSEG Long Island employees must carry a company ID and present it when requested. If customers have doubts, do not let the person into the house. Call PSEG Long Island at 1-800-490-0025 and a customer service representative will gladly verify if an employee has been dispatched to the location.

Occasionally, scammers may go door to door impersonating PSEG Long Island employees, flashing a fake ID and/or claiming to be a utility collection representative. The impostors may wear “uniforms” or affix false company signs to their vehicles. The scammers generally ask for personal information, which real utility representatives do not do, or offer bogus discounts. Again, if customers have any doubts, they should not let the person in, and should call 1-800-490-0025 to verify.

How actual PSEG Long Island reps handle phone calls

Customers should also know 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 person on the phone does not provide the correct information, it is likely the customer is not speaking with a PSEG Long Island representative. 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. For more information, visit <https://www.psegliny.com/myaccount/customersupport/scamsandfraud>.

THANKSGIVING SANITATION SCHEDULE

Residents are reminded that there will be no garbage pickup or recycling collection on Thursday, November 25, 2021. The holiday week collection schedule will be as follows:

Garbage Collection:

Western half: Monday and Friday

Eastern half: Tuesday and Saturday

Rubbish Collection:

Entire Village: Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Recycling Collection:

Thursday collection rescheduled to Thursday, December 2, 2021