

June 8, 2022

THE MAYOR'S UPDATE

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SECURITY ASSESSMENT

In light of the recent tragedy in Uvalde, Texas, I asked Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson to provide a security assessment overview of the Garden City school district and Village open facilities, including the Village Hall complex and the community parks. The Police Department continues to evaluate security protocols and conditions on a daily basis and value the input and cooperation from stakeholders involved in these critical infrastructures.

In 2005, the Department conducted its first assessment of the school district; in 2018 a more comprehensive assessment was performed, with help from a security agency hired by the District. Today, assessing and protecting critical infrastructure and key assets in the Village is an ongoing process. The Department has access to the school district's security camera system and floor plans, and Police Officers routinely do walk-throughs in the district school buildings. Three to four lock down drills per school are conducted annually. Officers conduct debriefings with school staff following each drill to praise positive actions and provide guidance in areas where improvements can be made. The Department is also working with the private schools in the Village in regards to their safety protocols.

A security assessment of Police Headquarters, the Fire Department, Village Hall and Village Court was completed in 2014. Based on that assessment, the Police Department applied for and received funding to enhance security infrastructure of the premises. Cameras were installed inside and outside Village Hall, the Fire Department, and Police Department, and Village Court. Over the years, cameras and license plate readers have also been installed at park facilities and parking fields. These cameras can be viewed inside Police Headquarters and inside the mobile command unit. The Department can remotely place Village Hall on lockdown; panic buttons were placed at key locations in the building and Courtroom. Active Shooter Situational Awareness training was presented to employees by Homeland Security and Garden City Police, with additional sessions to be scheduled. At the Garden City Library, the Police Department completed a security assessment in 2018 resulting in additional cameras, a security guard, and revised policies and procedures. Further, License plate readers were added to the Library's Parking Field. Situational Awareness Training was also conducted by Homeland Security and Garden City Police for Library staff. I am thankful Commissioner Jackson is on top of everything. Deputy Mayor Tom O'Brien added, "I saw many beautiful letters from teachers. You're staying ahead of the curve and I appreciate that."

ADDRESSING CHERRY VALLEY TRAIN TRESTLE BRIDGE STRIKES

The Cherry Valley Road Bridge was built in 1871 and serves the Hempstead branch. This bridge replacement project is necessary to raise the bridge structure to avoid truck strikes that cause delays on the Hempstead branch. Although clearance height signs, including solar power units, are clearly marked in the area and the site of Long Island Rail Road overpass bridges, incidents of bridge strikes continue at this location. There were 23 bridge strikes to this bridge in 2021,

including two in one day. Further, just this week, two more trucks struck the overpass. The frequency of these incidents underline the need to improve the bridge's safety and reliability for vehicles and for LIRR passengers. Cherry Valley Road Bridge will be raised to accommodate a vertical height clearance of 14 feet to allow trucks to safely pass beneath it. At my request, I, along with other Village officials, met with the Village's LIRR government liaisons and the project manager on Tuesday, May 31 to discuss, among other things, preservation aspects of the plan. I requested modification of the new steel trestle to be more historically accurate, and urged they maintain as much of the existing stonework as possible.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT LEGALIZATION FEE AMNESTY PERIOD ENDS JULY 30

For applications filed during the period from February 1, 2022 through July 30, 2022, no Legalization Fee shall be charged to any applicant or other person seeking to legalize work, or who is required to legalize work, that was or is being performed without a permit required under Chapter 68-5.D: The Village Code was amended that whenever a permit holder, permit applicant or other person seeks to legalize work, or is required to legalize work, that was or is being performed without a permit required under this Chapter, the permit holder or permit applicant or other person shall pay a legalization fee equal to three times the application fee. The legalization fee shall be in addition to any and all other application and inspection fees charged by the Department. No new permit for construction or installation work, nor any Certificate of Occupancy, Certificate of Completion or Letter in Lieu shall be issued until the legalization fee for existing construction and /or installations and all other applicable fees are paid in full.

STEWART FIELD PARKING

The Village is considering re-stripping the parking lot at Stewart Field in an attempt to add sufficient spaces. Trustees have been closely monitoring the lot, according to Trustee Charles Kelly. The overflow into the Clinton Road/Stewart School lot has been effective to date; the gates have been unlocked on the weekends to enable direct access to the fields. That seems to have been a benefit, Trustee Kelly said.

DWI SPECIAL PATROLS YIELD ARRESTS

During the Stop DWI Initiative on Memorial Day weekend, Officers arrested a 58-year-old motorist on Old Country Road for DWI and a 37-year-old motorist on Washington Avenue for DWI. The Garden City Police Department, along with various other Police Departments throughout Nassau County, participated in the STOP DWI Enforcement Initiative targeting intoxicated and drugged drivers. According to Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson during this initiative, the Department deployed extra patrols on Village roadways, strictly enforcing all DWI laws.

BUCKLE UP NY CAMPAIGN

During the Department's Buckle Up NY campaign, Police Officers issued 74 tickets for seatbelt violations and two tickets for child restraint violations and one ticket for missing restraint device in vehicle. During this initiative, highly visible patrols and checkpoints were conducted throughout the Village, targeting non-compliance to occupant restraint laws including child safety seat laws. The goal of Garden City Police Department's Occupant Restraint Enforcement Program was to reduce personal injuries and fatalities due to automobile crashes through education and enforcement. Commissioner Kenneth Jackson said the Department's participation

in this effort was made possible through funding received from the GTSC, with assistance from the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police and the Nassau County Traffic Safety Board.

WATER TANK

The filling of the water tank is continuing but we are maintaining a steady, moderate rate to avoid creating brown/rusty water and also to maintain system pressure. The addition of the Wells coming on line (Wells 7 and 10 are back on line and it is anticipated Well 11 will be back on line next week) allows us to keep the water flowing to the overhead tank without interruption, rather than being diverted to the ground storage tanks that are needed for supply each day.

ST. PAUL'S ROOF WORK: MORE DAMAGE DISCOVERED

The Board of Trustees has approved a \$149,640 change order for the St. Paul's Roof Replacement Emergency Project for additional damaged roof areas not figured into the original scope of work. These areas were discovered when the contractor began making repairs. It was determined these additional repairs needed to be addressed at this time. Giuseppe Giovanniello, while inspecting the contractor's work while on a boom lift, determined it was in the best interest of the Village to perform this work. The Board already approved \$321,400 on March 24, 2022.

FEMA notified the Village that the deadline to finish the repairs and seek reimbursement has been extended. The total amount earmarked for the repairs is now \$471,040. The Village potentially stands to receive 75 percent reimbursement of the total repair costs, or \$353,280. This work needs to be completed no matter what the building eventually gets used for.

POOL OPENING JUNE 11

Saturday, June 11, 2022 marks the kick off of the 66th season of "fun in the sun" at the Garden City Pool. Residents are reminded that all members for the 2022 season are required to stop by the Pool Office to get an updated picture and yellow pass. Previous seasons pool passes will not be accepted. Registration is ongoing. Call the Garden City Pool at 483-1714 with questions or visit www.gardencityrecreation.org.

BELMONT FESTIVAL

The Village of Garden City and the Garden City Chamber of Commerce will hold the annual Belmont Festival on Friday, June 10, 2022. Festivities kick off at 6:00 p.m. on Seventh Street. This family-friendly event will offer live music, local fare, alfresco dining and much more.