

June 2, 2021

## **THE MAYOR'S UPDATE**

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### **FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Residents experienced in firefighting and fire safety have been interviewed for the proposed Village Fire Safety Committee. The number of resident volunteers was so great that subcommittees are being formed to address major issues, such as:

- Village Fire Safety Master Plan / Risk Assessment
- Facilities / Apparatus Analysis
- Emergency Response / Action Plan
- Legal/Case Studies / After Action Reporting

Subcommittees will report to Mayor Cosmo Veneziale, Chief Devyn Moody and Deputy Mayor Tom O' Brien. Final reports and recommendations will be presented to the Board of Trustees and Village residents.

### **FISCAL STRESS MONITORING SYSTEM**

Village Treasurer Irene Woo has reported that the New York State Comptroller's Office has completed its annual financial and environmental review of all municipalities and school districts. The financial review is based on the Annual Update Document (AUD) that the Village provides to New York State for information covering the fiscal year ending May 31, 2020.

The Fiscal Stress Monitoring System evaluates from a budgetary perspective the Village's ability to meet expenditures through generation of revenues by measuring fund balances, operating deficits/surpluses, cash positions and fixed costs. Environmental factors, such as change in population, median household income, unemployment rate and reliance on state aid are also measured and scored. The system provides an early warning of fiscal stress to local governments and allows interested parties to track stress condition trends.

The scores from each indicator determine the stress category (Significant, Moderate, Susceptible to Stress, or No Designation). Scores between 0-44.9 for Financial Factors and 0-29.9 for Environmental Factors fall under the No Designation category.

“Once again, the Village has achieved a score of 'No Designation' under both financial and environmental indicators, which shows that the Village does not meet the threshold of fiscal stress,” Ms. Woo said. “The Village scored 3.3 under both Fiscal Stress and Environmental Stress factors, which are much lower when compared to the categories provided by NYS (All Villages, Long Island Villages, and Large Downstate Villages). In fact, the Environmental Stress Score for the Village had a positive change from the prior year.” Visit [www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/index.htm](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/index.htm) for more information.

### **LIRR COMMITTEE**

Trustee Bruce Chester and six residents comprise the Village's LIRR Committee. Trustee Chester attended a meeting on May 20, 2021 with representatives of 3TC/LIRR and the Village. Two main concerns were discussed during the meeting: railroad workers parking on Village property and the bright work lights along Merillon Avenue. The Garden City Police Department has been advised to ticket anyone illegally parked.

### **MEMORIAL DAY 2021**

Under the auspices of William Bradford Turner Post 265, Memorial Day ceremonies returned to the Seventh Street War Memorial this year. Despite the unpredictable weather, residents gathered on Monday, May 31, 2021 to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Post Commander Frank Tauches, Jr. welcomed all those in attendance, including Mayor Cosmo Veneziale, who attended the ceremony along with Trustees Colleen Foley, Mary Carter Flanagan and Tom O'Brien.

### **WATER CONSERVATION**

The Garden City Water Department would like to remind its customers that as we enter the summer season, the volume of water used throughout the Village increases significantly. We want to remind residents that lawn sprinkling is permitted only from April 16 to November 30 during the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Properties with odd numbered addresses are permitted to use their sprinklers on odd numbered days and even numbered or those without a numerical address on even numbered days. We are asking that you be especially diligent this summer with water conservation as the ongoing infrastructure improvements being done in the Water Department have put more significant demands on the system and water supply than normal. If you have a sprinkler system please check with your irrigation company to make sure that your sprinkler zones are set properly. Please ask your irrigation company to install a rain sensor if you do not already have one. This will shut down your irrigation system on days where there is rainfall.

### **2021 BUCKLE-UP NEW YORK ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE**

The Garden City Police Department is participating in the Statewide Buckle-Up New York enforcement initiative through June 6. The enforcement of seat belt and child restraint laws saves lives. During this initiative, highly visible patrols and checkpoints are being 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 is to reduce personal injuries and fatalities due to automobile crashes through education and enforcement. Studies have shown that wearing a seatbelt can reduce the risk of fatal injury by 45 percent. According to the New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC), statistics show unrestrained or improperly restrained occupants account for 21 percent of highway deaths in New York, greater than alcohol-related factors and speeding.

Commissioner Kenneth Jackson said the Department's participation in this effort is 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. The following is a brief overview from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee regarding seatbelt/occupant laws for driving with passengers under the age of 16:

- All vehicle occupants must wear proper safety restraints. The driver is responsible for all passengers under age 16;
- All children under 4 years old must be restrained in a federally approved child safety seat;
- Children ages 4-7 must be properly restrained in an appropriate child restraint system;
- Effective November 1, 2019, Children under two years of age must be placed in a rear-facing child seat;
- Backseat passengers in a taxi or livery who are 16 years of age or older must be restrained by a seat belt;
- All passengers in a taxi or livery who are 8-15 years of age must be restrained by a seat belt;
- Due to the efforts of law enforcement, seat belt compliance rates are at 94 percent in New York State. The national compliance rate is 91 percent;
- According to NHTSA, 57 percent of drivers, ages 18-34, are killed in automobile crashes when not wearing a seatbelt; and
- Drivers will be assessed three points against their driver's license for the conviction of occupant restraint laws regarding child passengers under 16 years of age.

#### **BELMONT FESTIVAL RETURNS FRIDAY, JUNE 4**

The Garden City Belmont Festival returns to Seventh Street Friday, June 4, 2021 between 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. Now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year, activities once again will include balloon artists, various activities and displays as well as live music. All New York State and Nassau County Health Department COVID-19 guidelines for mask wearing and social distancing will be strictly enforced.

#### **SUMMER IN THE STREETS**

The Village and Chamber of Commerce once again present "Summer in the Streets" every Thursday through Saturday until September 11, 6:00 to 11 :00 p.m. Seventh Street will be closed for pedestrians only for on-street, outdoor dining and shopping.