

February 15, 2023

**PROPOSED CASINO DEVELOPMENT**

The Garden City Property Owners' Associations jointly hosted a public meeting February 8th at Stewart School Auditorium. The Eastern, Central, Estates and Western Property Owners' Associations invited Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and County Legislator Laura Schaefer to answer questions on a range of topics, including traffic and road projects, infrastructure and taxes as well as the proposed Casino Development. Although Legislator Schaefer was unable to attend, she did send a representative in her place. I have been in contact with Nassau County Executive Blakeman's office and the Mayors of the communities surrounding the Nassau Coliseum site. I do not support the proposed Casino project and the ancillary uses that will affect our Village. As more information becomes available, the residents will be provided updates on our new Village website.

**GOVERNOR'S HOUSING PROPOSAL**

Governor Hochul's plan to increase housing on Long Island by designating sites in proximity to LIRR stations is of major concern to our Village. I have directed an inventory be prepared of all Village-owned properties which may be impacted by the Governor's plan. I oppose state control of our Village zoning and land use, as do the Mayors of our surrounding communities.

**NYS GRANT MONIES FOR WATER TREATMENT PROJECTS**

The Village of Garden City has been approved for funding of grants for all the Well Treatment projects, totaling \$25,670,098, which represents approximately 50 percent of the total cost of these projects. There is a lengthy approval process before a signed agreement is finalized with New York State. To date, Treasurer Irene Woo has a signed agreement with New York State for Wells 8 & 12 and should be receiving the grant for that project soon. This week, Ms. Woo submitted the signed agreement for Wells 10 & 11, which will then need to be signed by New York State. We have not received agreements for the other Well projects as of yet. The chart below shows the approved grant funding by Well Project:

• Wells 15 & 16	\$5,460,000	Hilton Avenue
• Wells 10 & 11	\$5,336,304	Clinton Road
• Wells 8 & 12	\$3,653,794	Rockaway Avenue
• Well #7	\$3,120,000	Waterworks
• Wells 13 & 14	\$5,100,000	Garden City Country Club
• Well #9	\$3,000,000	Wilson Street
• TOTAL GRANTS	\$25,670,098	(represents 50.7 percent)
• TOTAL EST. COST	\$50,673,692	

**PREP WORK FOR GRADE CROSSING REHAB, TRAIN TRESTLE WORK**

On February 3, Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi, Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson, Building Superintendent Giuseppe Giovanniello and Public Works Superintendent John Borroni met with the Village's MTA liaison, Nick Fasano, to discuss upcoming road closures related to the raising of the Cherry Valley Train Trestle, and upgrades to the Cathedral Avenue and Hilton Avenue railroad crossings.

**Cherry Valley Train Trestle:** The raising of the Cherry Valley Train Trestle will occur over three consecutive weekends. Here is the tentative schedule, which is subject to change as we get closer to these dates and the project progresses:

- March 3 - 5, first bridge jacking weekend, Cherry Valley Avenue to be closed. The road closure will last from approximately 9:00 p.m. on March 3 to 4:00 a.m. on March 5.
- March 10 - 13, second bridge jacking weekend, Cherry Valley Avenue to be closed. The road closure will last from approximately 9:00 p.m. on March 10 to 4:00 a.m. on March 13.
- March 17 - 20, third bridge jacking weekend, Cherry Valley Avenue to be closed. The road closure

will last from approximately 9:00 p.m. on March 17 to 4:00 a.m. on March 20. As part of this work, we will

also require a 12-hour outage from 11pm on Friday February 24 to 11am on Saturday February 25 to prepare the crossing to be replaced.

- March 31 at approximately 9:00 p.m. – April 3 at approximately 4:00 a.m., installation of the new bridge at Cherry Valley Avenue. The road closure will last from approximately 9:00 p.m. on March 31 to 4:00 a.m. on April 3.
- The weekend of May 6 will be held as a contingency weekend in case we need additional time to complete this work.
- For each of these weekends, we will also have a full shutdown of train service on the Hempstead branch and run buses in their stead. Customers are encouraged to check the LIRR website and app for travel information. Public Works Superintendent John Borroni will issue all necessary road closure permits. Detour signs will be in place no later than two days before the start of any work.

**Cathedral Avenue Grade Crossing Rehabilitation:** The upgrade of the Cathedral Avenue Grade Crossing will occur March 24-27. The Cathedral Avenue road closure will last from approximately 9:00 p.m. on March 24 to 4:00 a.m. on March 27. The crossing will have the rubber pads replaced with a concrete pad. In addition, about 20 to 25 feet of the asphalt roadway, both north and south, will be adjusted to make the crossing a smooth transition for vehicles. Detour signs will be in place no later than two days before the start of any work. Prep work will take place on Friday, February 24 starting at 11<sup>:00</sup> p.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 25. MTAPD will be on site for these closures.

**Hilton Avenue Grade Crossing Rehabilitation:** The date of the Hilton Avenue grade crossing rehabilitation is still to be determined as it can occur at any time. Detour signs will be in place no later than two days before the start of any work. Prep work will take place on Thursday, March 2 starting at 11:00 p.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 3. MTAPD will also be on site to assist with these closures.

#### **ELECTION INSPECTORS/ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

The Board of Trustees approved the Election Inspectors for the March 21, 2023 Village Election, which will take place in the St. Paul's Field House on Stewart Avenue. Polls will be open between 12 Noon and 9:00 p.m. Residents are reminded that absentee ballot applications are available on the Village website and at Village Hall for those residents who will be out of the Village or are unable to vote in person due to a disability or illness. Please note that the Village has been advised that fear of COVID is no longer a valid reason to get an absentee ballot.

#### **COMMUNITY PARK MINI GOLF COURSE**

Work on the Mini Golf course at Community Park is continuing at a good pace. After having the electric cables marked out, Public Works crews have completed grading the area in preparation for construction. The next step will be to run electrical conduits for the powered obstacles, like the windmill. Village Engineers are currently putting together bid specifications for the purchase of the greens, fairways and obstacles. "We are hopeful of having the course completed by mid June," Recreation Commissioner Paul Blake said.

#### **ST. PAUL'S UPDATE**

Island Wide Building Services has finished cleaning the first and second floors of the St. Paul's Main Building. This will now enable the cost estimator, Westerman Construction, Co., to begin its evaluation. Westerman was engaged to evaluate adaptive reuse, façadism and demolition of the St. Paul's Main Building. According to Building Superintendent Giuseppe Giovanniello, the cleaned areas will be easier to navigate.