

**Minutes of the Garden City Estates Property Owners' Association
Held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at Stratford School**

The monthly meeting of the Garden City Estates Property Owners' Association was held on Wednesday evening, October 10, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. in the Stratford School auditorium.

President William Slattery opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. by leading the thirty-five people present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thereafter, the minutes of the September meeting were approved. President Slattery then introduced the Officers and Directors of the Association who were present.

President Slattery then read Committee reports from the Library Committee and the School Board in the absence of Randy Colahan and Colleen Foley. Randy Colahan outlined the various activities that the library is undertaking including putting in a new screen, projector and lighting system in the larger conference room in the ground floor of the library and a new system whereby Garden City Library cardholders can download music at no cost. The library is also offering a SAT preparation course for high school students as well as cooking classes geared toward seniors. Children's author David Adler will be coming to the library shortly to give a presentation and AARP is holding a driver's safety session at the library this week.

Colleen Foley was unavailable to attend the meeting but reported that rumble strips are being considered along Rockaway Avenue in order to slow down traffic near the high school.

Doug Singer from the Traffic Commission gave a report as to two stop signs that are being considered: one at South Avenue and either Brixton or Brompton Road and one at Tanners Pond Road near the bird sanctuary. A third request related to a crossing guard at Stratford Avenue at the west end of the school. Brian O'Neil, a resident, spoke in favor of the stop sign on South Avenue. The proposal was endorsed by the Directors of the Property Owners Association and the Garden City Police Department is going to investigate whether to put a stop sign at South Avenue and either Brixton Road or Brompton Road. There was some discussion about the necessity for putting a stop sign on Tanners Pond Road since there already is a stop sign at Newmarket Road and there is a natural slow down of traffic going under the tunnel on Tanners Pond Road onto Marcus Avenue. The proposal was tabled until November for further consideration and discussion by the Directors and Officers.

The Architectural Review Board Committee reported through Hugh Lacey who advised that there has been some new housing going up in the Village as well as house expansions and revisions.

Our new member of the Citizens Review Budget Committee, Christine Rio, was present said that the Committee had recently held its first meeting.

The meeting then featured the first of three presentations by outside guests. The first presentation was by Fire Chief Charles Cavarra who has served with the Garden City Fire Department since 1988 and is a lifelong resident of the Village. In November of 2011, the Village hired a consultant to review fire department operations. Some fourteen recommendations were received from the consultants, most of which could be applied to any fire department. The one topic which was most controversial was the recommendation that the Village hire Firecom, who currently provides fire dispatch services for some fifty-seven fire departments in Nassau County. The Village decided to enter into an agreement with Firecom to provide dispatch services. There is no change in the way in which a Village resident would contact the fire department; the caller simply dials 911. Approximately four hundred calls have been dispatched since August and all have been responded to within three minutes.

The Chief also discussed the Insurance Service Office ratings which are ratings given by ISO to various fire departments. These ratings are then distributed to fire insurance companies throughout the country and a rating of a particular village would determine the rates for homeowners' insurance. Garden City has an ISO rating of 3; ten fire departments in Long Island have a rating of "2" and no fire department has a rating of 1. Garden City's aim is to shoot for a "2" rating and one of the ways that the Village believes it can accomplish this goal is to use the services of Firecom.

Chief Cavarra emphasized that there are no current plans to close any of the fire stations and there have been no layoffs. The three fire stations in the Village are currently manned on a 24/7 basis.

The Chief also reminded everyone that Fire Safety Day will be held at Fire Department Headquarters on Steward Avenue on Sunday, October 14, 2012. Everyone is invited to attend.

The next speaker was Rev. Jim Adelman of the Garden City Community Church who has been a presence in the Village for some thirty-two years, starting out as Youth Minister and having become appointed Senior Pastor more than twenty years ago. Rev. Adelman explained that the Garden City Community Church is affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Rev. Adelman described the Church as being theologically progressive with an invitation to all to attend worship services. There is no "top down" management structure and the Garden City Community Church is an open and affirming Church. Rev. Adelman pointed out some of the community activities of the Church which are open to all members of the Garden City community. This includes the Americana Fair in November, Vacation Bible School, mission trips for youth and upcoming organ concerts.

Rev. Adelman also pointed out that the Church recently planted a garden and was able to harvest some three hundred and twenty pounds of fresh vegetables which were donated to the Mary Brennan Inn for use in feeding guests of the Inn.

The final outside speaker was Robert Scott, the President of Adelphi University. President Scott emphasized the building program that has gone on at Adelphi and how the University has been recognized as one of the twenty-four best higher education buys by Fisk's. Tuition is substantially lower than at competing schools. Adelphi recently welcomed some nine hundred eighty freshmen into its new class as well as some five hundred fifty transfer students. It recently began offering a Masters course in nutrition which is being given online. President Scott emphasized Adelphi's commitment to being environmentally friendly and pointed out the new underground parking garage as well as the fact that 100% of the electricity at the University is provided by an alternative electric source.

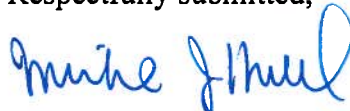
Pat Manley, our Recreation Commission representative, reported that roller skating rink is being resurfaced and should be finished by April. There is also a survey going out to senior citizens to determine their needs. The Friends of Garden City Recreation will be holding a fundraising event at Sweeney's sometime in November. The tennis bubble is being inflated and the heat will be put on next week. There is also a Dog Park Committee which is being established as some residents had indicated a desire to have a dog park in the Village. If anyone is interested in serving on this Committee, they should contact President Slattery.

Finally, Rob Alvey and Tim Martens, the Treasurer of the Garden City Bird Sanctuary spoke on the activities at the Bird Sanctuary. Two interns from Adelphi University have recently been assisting at the Bird Sanctuary so that it can remain open five days a week. Mr. Martens pled for a renewal of membership and an increase in membership by community members. The Garden City Bird Sanctuary is a 501(c) non-profit corporation. The Bird Sanctuary is always looking for volunteer help as well as financial support. They are planning a Halloween Fest on October 27, 2012.

Following several questions from the audience concerning traffic issues and the problem of speeding generally throughout the Village, the meeting concluded at 9:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the Garden City Estates Property Owners Association will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. at the Stratford School.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Holland
Secretary