

Georgia woman claims Cheektowaga owes her \$402.38

By **Jim Herr** - October 25, 2017



Demolition work has started on the Garden Village Plaza site off French Road on July 25, 2017. (Jim Herr/Cheektowaga Chronicle)

CHEEKTOWAGA – A Georgia woman is claiming the Town of Cheektowaga owes her \$402.38 for towing and impound fees after she was arrested this past August.

Luretta Williams, of Stockbridge, GA, says she was wrongfully arrested for trespassing and petit larceny on Friday, August 25th at the Gardenvillage Plaza demolition site according to a Notice of Claim filed in the Town Clerk's office. Cheektowaga Town Justice Dennis Gorski dismissed the trespassing and petit larceny charges according to a court document filed with the notice of claim.

Ms. Williams says she took her mother to the construction site to collect scrap, "I was not committing a crime as I was just at the parking lot with my mother who was collecting scrap.

However, it was just a parking lot there were no signs or fences so I did not think she was doing anything wrong.”

She was arrested and her car was towed by Rusiniak’s Towing by request of the police department. She was released from jail that evening. Ms. Williams claims that a police officer wrongfully informed her that the impound lot would not reopen until Monday.

Town law allows for vehicles to be released after regular business hours, on Saturdays and Sundays, by appointment only. The towing company is allowed to charge a premium of \$95.00 an hour.

Her vehicle was allowed to be released by the police the next day but it was not picked up from Rusiniak’s lot until five days later according to the tow receipt.

The claim was forwarded to the town’s insurance carrier for further investigation.