

October 20, 2021

**THE MAYOR'S UPDATE**

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**MARIJUANA REGULATION AND TAXATION ACT**

The Board of Trustees is expected to set the date of Thursday, November 4, 2021 for a public hearing to consider a proposed Local Law prohibiting the licensed sale of cannabis and/or on-site consumption sites within the boundaries of the Village of Garden City. If the Village passes this law, the State of New York will prohibit the establishment of any retail dispensary and/or on-site consumption sites by refusing to grant any such license within the Village.

Cities, villages, and towns may opt out of allowing retail dispensaries and/or onsite consumption establishments from operating within their boundaries by adopting a Local Law subject to a permissive referendum on or before December 31, 2021. No city, village, or town may opt out after December 31, 2021. However, a local government that, in 2021, opts out of allowing retail dispensaries and/or on-site consumption establishments from locating within their boundaries may opt back in at any time. As this Local Law is subject to a permissive referendum, a valid petition signed by 20 percent of registered voters as of the last general Village election may be filed in the Village Clerk's office within 30 days of the passage of the Local Law. If no such petition is filed within 30 days, the Local Law goes into effect.

The Mayor and Board of Trustees have been educating themselves on this decision facing municipalities across New York State since early April, hearing input from numerous residents. At the October 7, 2021 Board meeting, Trustees John Delany and Mary Carter Flanagan shared information from a New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) presentation. A summary of that presentation, along with the draft Local Law, is available on the Village [website](#). Residents interested in this issue are encouraged to read the summary in order to understand the decision before the Village of Garden City. Residents are also encouraged to email the Mayor and/or their Trustee with comments and questions. Click [here](#) for a list of Board emails. Residents are also encouraged to attend the public discussions on October 21 and November 4, which will take place in the Village Hall Board Room and via Zoom beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Zoom link will be made available on the Village website.

**WATER COMPLAINTS EMAIL**

A NEW email address has been established so you can submit any discolored water issues that you are experiencing. Please email your complaint to [waterissues@gardencityny.net](mailto:waterissues@gardencityny.net). Please include your contact information and an explanation of your complaint. If you have the ability to send a photo as well please do. If you do not have or do not wish to use email, please call the Water Department at 516-465-4020 and leave a message with your name, address and contact phone number. All emails and information will be forwarded immediately to the Village Water Consultants at H2M who are collecting the information, obtaining water samples as needed and

following up to help identify potential causes and solutions. H2M continues reviewing the complaints and performed a round of system-wide sampling. Representatives met with Village water operators and recommended a plan of action. H2M is reviewing the results from recommended and implemented pH modifications at the well sites. Increases in pH system-wide have been observed.

### **STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR VILLAGE**

Want to stay connected to the Village and its activities? Sign up for email alerts through an online portal on Garden City's homepage. The link is located on the bottom right side of the Village website, [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net). All you'll need to do is provide your name and a valid email address to immediately begin receiving non-emergency updates about local meetings and events, upcoming festivals, Village Hall holiday hours, approved solicitations and road closures, to name a few. Follow the Village on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) as well for daily updates.

### **COMMERCIAL TRUCK INSPECTIONS**

In addition to routine traffic enforcement, which includes the enforcement of commercial vehicle violations, the Police Department conducts random commercial vehicle checkpoint inspections. As of October 16, 2021 the Garden City Police Department has conducted 13 commercial vehicle checkpoint inspections in the Village. During these inspections:

- 106 vehicles were inspected
- 47 were placed out of service
- 514 tickets were issued for various traffic and safety violations, including 49 overweight violations, 22 unsecured load violations, 5 suspended license/registration violations, and 29 Haz-Mat violations

For example, in January Officers conducted a truck inspection on Clinton Road. Thirteen vehicles were inspected; three were placed out of service and 45 tickets were issued for various traffic and safety violations, including 18 overweight violations and one unsecured load violation. One operator was charged with driving with a suspended license. In April a truck inspection on New Hyde Park Road placed seven out of 10 trucks out of service. Forty-five tickets were issued for various traffic and safety violations. In June, a Clinton Road checkpoint yielded 38 tickets for various traffic and safety violations, including six Hazmat violations and three unsecured load violations.

Garden City Police Commissioner, Kenneth Jackson, states, "Commercial vehicle inspections are conducted to provide a safer environment for motorists and pedestrians. They also help the Department in minimizing deterioration and damage to Village roads. Violations such as defective breaks, unsafe tires, steering deficiencies, overweight vehicles, illegal transport of hazardous materials, and loose/unsecured loads, pose a significant threat to the well-being of the community as well as the environment."

### **CROSSING GUARDS NEEDED**

The Garden City Police Department is currently seeking part-time school crossing guards. Benefits include eight paid holidays per year, optional membership in the NYS retirement system, two sessions per day: one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon; and uniform cleaning is provided. All interested candidates may obtain an application online at: <https://gardencitypolice.net/forms-and-applications> or by visiting Police Headquarters at 349 Stewart Avenue.

### **OFFICER RECEIVES SERVICE AWARD**

Garden City Police Officer Thomas Carroll received the Town of Hempstead Police Service Award during a ceremony at Town Hall October 15. Commissioner Kenneth Jackson and Lt. Thomas Federlein were in attendance, along with Officer Carroll's wife and daughter. While on patrol at about 6:00 a.m. on a Friday morning last year, Officer Carroll observed dark smoke emanating from behind a Garden City residence. Officer Carroll investigated the origins of the smoke condition and observed a large AC condenser unit engulfed in flames, with flames running up the back of the house. He immediately radioed for the Garden City Fire Department to respond and proceeded to wake up the family residing inside, evacuating them from the home. Firefighters were able to extinguish the fire before it got out of control. Visit the Village website, [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net), to see photos from the ceremony.

### **NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY**

The Garden City Police Department will be participating in the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 23, 2021, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. A collection center will be maintained at Garden City Police Department Headquarters, 349 Stewart Avenue, Garden City. This event provides an opportunity for residents to safely discard unwanted, unused, and expired medications. According to the United States DEA, National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 9.7 million people misused prescription pain relievers, 4.9 million people misused prescription stimulants, and 5.9 million people misused prescription tranquilizers or sedatives in 2019. The survey also showed that a majority of misused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. The Police Department advises the Garden City and DEA Drug Take Back Programs allow for the safe disposal of drugs instead of flushing, burying, or throwing them out in the garbage, which poses significant environmental and health risks.