

January 19, 2022

## **THE MAYOR'S UPDATE**

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### **POA REMOVAL FROM WEBSITE**

Please be advised the Village website is a Village government website. The Property Owners' Associations (POAs) are not a part of Village Government and are not listed as part of the Village Government's organizational chart. I recommended removal of the existing POA link based on the misleading content describing the POAs as the "mechanism" to allow residents to be considered for participation as a Trustee or a member of a Board or Commission. Recently, I spoke at a meeting of the Village Governance Committee where I discussed the undue political influence some community groups have had in our Village government. This applies to any organization or group, including For A Better Garden City (FABGC). Committees, Boards and Commissions should be comprised of all residents who wish to volunteer their time and experience regardless of membership or allegiance to a political or community group. Moreover, we are preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to redesign the Village website to improve what many have said is difficult to navigate and antiquated. We will address the content and all links to the Village as part of the new website redesign. The existing resident handbook will also be revised and updated.

### **DENTON AVENUE BRIDGE WORK**

The Village of Garden City issued two permits to 3rd Track Constructors (3TC) with regards to work taking place on the Denton Avenue Bridge - a road closure permit and a utility permit, the Mayor announced at the January 13, 2022 Board Meeting, reiterating that a permit for any kind of modification or removal of the Bridge has not been issued. The Long Island Railroad advised the Village that 3TC is performing night work in the area of the Denton Avenue Bridge and along Main Avenue. Work is expected to continue through mid-week. 3TC is driving steel supports within one foot of the Long Island Railroad Third Rail. The electrification of the Third Rail has to be shut off to do the work. The Village has requested that, where possible, the work be performed on the weekend in order to minimize disruption to our residents. The Long Island Railroad has advised that the work should be completed by mid-week. The work requires a temporary detour plan, which can be found [here](#). 3TC's 24/7 hotline (516-203-4955), email [communityoutreach@lirrexpansion.com](mailto:communityoutreach@lirrexpansion.com) and website ([lirrexpansion.com](http://lirrexpansion.com)) remain operational throughout the construction period.

### **MEET AND GREET JANUARY 25**

The Village Governance Committee will be hosting the first Meet and Greet of 2022 on Tuesday, January 25th at the Village Senior Center on Golf Club Lane from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The monthly Meet and Greet is a great opportunity for residents to engage directly with members of the Board of Trustees. We will continue to have a maximum of 3-4 Trustees (3 if the Mayor is in attendance) at each meeting to avoid any violations of the Open Meetings Law. The monthly meetings do not have an agenda; Trustees are available to discuss multiple issues and concerns.

### **CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT, CIRCULATION DESK AREA RENOVATION**

The budget for renovation of the Children's Department and adjacent Circulation Desk area in the Garden City Public Library has been amended after officials suggested alternatives and/or additions to enhance user experience even more than originally proposed. Suggestions include adding a sink in the new S.T.E.A.M. (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) Workshop, and connecting the desks in the Circulation area and incorporating granite countertops.

According to Trustee Colleen Foley, Board liaison to the Library, she, along with Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi, Building Superintendent Giuseppe Giovanniello, Library Director Marianne Malagon, Library Board Chairperson Randy Colahan and members of H2M Architects have met for approximately one year developing these concepts. A major focal point upon entering the Library is the Circulation Desk area. Restoring the natural brick opening, connecting the two desks and opting for granite countertops is aesthetically pleasing.

The Board unanimously agreed to amend the budget at a cost not to exceed \$275,000 - bringing the project total to approximately \$1,120,000, less \$165,000 from years of accrued State Bullet aid and memorial gifts, \$200,000 in SAM (State and Municipal) facilities grants and \$71,000 in a Special Reserve account approved by the Library Board allocated for cost overruns if needed, or technology. The Board's decision to amend the budget enables the H2M designer to incorporate the new elements into the bid specifications so that the price the Village gets back is representative of the market rate cost of the project.

"This is a very needed project. This is a very active area. The Library is very utilized by our younger residents. This would be a dramatic improvement, particularly for the littlest residents here," Trustee Foley said. Mayor Venezia added, "The Library should be special, I agree," he said.

#### **LOCAL LAW - BUILDING DEPARTMENT LEGALIZATION FEE**

It has been drawn to the attention of the Board of Trustees that not all of its residents are aware of the current reasonable practice and policy of the Building Superintendent to deny new Building Department permits to applicants for construction/installation work in instances wherein the applicant is currently maintaining premises with construction/installation work which required a permit prior to the construction/installation work, but for which no permit was applied nor issued. This practice and policy does and will subject some applicants to a "legalization fee" required by Code 68-5.D, which is designed to address the additional work of the Village in inspecting work without the advantage of advance plans and specifications, ongoing inspections during construction/installation, and other requirements placed upon applicants which make for more efficient and responsible compliance with construction/installation laws designed to protect the health and safety of village residents. The Board believes such practice and policy furthers the interests of the Village in providing cost-effective and safe construction and installations for its residents. The Code was amended as follows: Whenever a permit holder or permit applicant or other person seeks to legalize work, or is required to legalize work, that was or is being performed without a permit required under this Chapter, the permit holder or permit applicant or other person shall pay a legalization fee equal to three times the application fee. The legalization fee shall be in addition to any and all other application and inspection fees charged by the Department. No new permit for construction or installation work, nor any Certificate of Occupancy, Certificate of Completion or Letter in Lieu shall be issued until the legalization fee for existing construction and/or installations and all other

applicable fees are paid in full.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, for applications filed during the period from February 1, 2022 through July 30, 2022, no Legalization Fee shall be charged to any applicant or other person seeking to legalize work, or who is required to legalize work, that was or is being performed without a permit required under this Chapter.

### **PKAD SETTLEMENT**

The Village engaged the professional services of Phillipp Kampf Architecture & Design (PKAD) in 2020 to provide certain architectural work related to Fire Station No. 2. In 2021, the Village ordered PKAD to stop all work. The firm then filed a \$175,000 claim for unpaid work. Both parties are in dispute as to the fees owed. The Board unanimously approved a settlement in the amount of \$145,000 that will resolve PKAD's claim for \$175,000, which includes any costs associate with litigating the matter, according to Village Counsel Peter Bee.

### **MAUREEN CLANCY**

I wish to extend our condolences to Maureen Clancy's family. Maureen Clancy was a resident of our Village for almost 55 years and had an extraordinary career as a woman in the insurance brokerage business. She was the first woman to serve on the Garden City Board of Trustees and the first woman to serve as Deputy Mayor of Garden City. Maureen Clancy was also involved with numerous business organizations, not-for-profits, Catholic religious groups and was an active parishioner of St. Joseph's Church. Her accomplishments and awards over her lifetime are too numerous to list. She was a pillar of our community and will be sorely missed. May she rest in peace.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT RECRUITMENT VIDEO**

The Garden City Fire Department is the recipient of a \$21,000 donation from a firm members met at a convention in Cleveland. The funds will create a recruitment video to be filmed over the course of three days this weekend to encourage residents to join the Department's ranks. After another busy year for volunteers, Chief Devyn Moody thanks the 104 volunteer members of the Department for their dedicated and faithful service. Interested in joining the Department? Email [membership@gcfdny.com](mailto:membership@gcfdny.com) or visit [www.gcfdny.com/recruitment](http://www.gcfdny.com/recruitment). All of your firefighting and emergency training will be available to you free of charge from both the Nassau County Fire Service Academy and through fire department in-house training.

### **PSEG CIRCUIT TRIMMING**

Weather permitting, PSEG-Long Island was scheduled to begin a circuit trim on approximately January 19, 2022, portions of which include areas in the Village. The below streets have customers that are being notified of the work:

- 11TH STREET
- 7TH STREET
- ARTHUR STREET
- HEATH PLACE
- HILTON AVENUE
- KEENAN PLACE
- ST JAMES STREET NORTH
- WHARTON PLACE

## **WATER UPDATE**

With assistance from its water consultant, H2M, the Village continues to investigate discolored water complaints throughout the Village. H2M provided the draft blue water report to the Village and it is currently under review. According to Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi, the brown water issues could be from hydraulic movement of water when the tower is offline. Mr. Suozzi believes this issue will diminish greatly once the tower goes on line at the end of February, or possibly sooner.

In early December, the Village was notified of a high lead level in the domestic water supply sample at a home in Garden City. The Village immediately conducted tests for lead at each of its active well sites where the treated water enters the Village-wide distribution system. Those tests came back “Non-Detect” for lead and were forwarded to the Health Department. The Village expanded testing to include system hydrants as well as homes where samples exceeded the New York State action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb); these notifications came directly from homeowners who requested free lead testing kits from the New York State Department of Health. If you’d like a free test kit, please [click here](#).

Additional funding may be needed as the Village investigates mandated regulatory actions under the Revised Lead and Copper Rule, which was issued on December 16, 2021. The New York State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced next steps to strengthen the regulatory framework on lead in drinking water, including opportunities to proactively remove lead service lines and strengthen tap sampling requirements. The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) will also be discussing water issues at its January 26, 2022 meeting. The Village remains vigilant and will continue providing updates as more information becomes available.