

March 15, 2023

**GOVERNOR HOCHUL’S PLAN MAY CHANGE**

This past Tuesday, Senator Kevin Thomas called me from his Albany budget meeting to inform me of Governor Hochul’s latest housing initiative. Senator Thomas advised me of the concerted effort of the Mayors and his office have moved the Governor’s housing plan to potentially provide incentives to those Villages and Towns who seek to develop housing. Senator Thomas explained he is hopeful a modified plan from Governor Hochul will be made that will offer incentives to Towns and Villages who seek to build housing. I continue to follow-up on this very important issue as it develops further. We remain vigilant.

**LEAD LEVELS IN OUR DRINKING WATER**

Elevated levels of lead in the drinking water were reported in some homes/buildings and has exceeded the action level for lead. Specifically, this action level was exceeded in 30 first draw samples of 63 homes tested in required compliance samples in the second six-month monitoring period ending on December 31, 2022. Under the Authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 parts per billion. This means public water suppliers must ensure that water from the customer’s tap does not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the homes in required compliance samples (90th percentile value). The action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. The Village implemented additional corrosion control treatment in November 2022 in order to reduce the concentration of lead in the drinking water. H2M continues to perform biweekly sampling at entry points for lead and other corrosion parameters. Initial lead service line investigation and analysis of Village plumbing permits and house ages is complete. The mobile reporting app development is complete and the self-reporting survey has been deployed for residents. As orthophosphate is being injected into the system, the District is taking entry point and distribution sampling to monitor the treatment.

If lead-containing plumbing materials are identified in your home, consider testing your water for lead to determine how much lead is in your drinking water. Call (516) 465-4017 or email [gardencitysampling@h2m.com](mailto:gardencitysampling@h2m.com). Please provide your name, address, and phone number so that we can contact you. For more information regarding what has occurred and what actions the Village has taken/is taking, visit the Water Department’s page.

**ST. PAUL’S COST ESTIMATOR**

Westerman Construction, Co. submitted preliminary cost estimates associated with demolition, adaptive reuse and façadism based on the scope of work and experience with similar projects. Westerman presented its report to Trustees at the March 16 Board meeting. The full report will be available on the Village website, [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net).

**2023 VILLAGE ELECTION: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

The General Village Election for 2023 will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. The polls will be open from 12 Noon to 9:00 p.m. in the evening and will be held at the St. Paul’s Field House. The names of all those who are running for Village office is as follows:

**Unity and Common Sense Party**

- Trustee 2 Years Edward Finneran

**Community Agreement Party**

- Mayor Two-Year Term Judy Courtney
- Trustee Two-Year Term Michele Harrington
- Trustee Two-Year Term Cosmo Veneziale

**For A Better Garden City Party**

- Mayor Two-Year Term Mary Carter Flanagan

- Trustee Two-Year Term Richard A. Williams
- Trustee Two-Year Term Bruce J. Chester
- Trustee Two-Year Term Michael J. Sullivan

### **ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

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 contracting COVID is no longer a valid reason to get an absentee ballot.

### **NEW WATER SUPERINTENDENT BEGINS MARCH 21**

We are pleased to announce that Stanley Carey officially begins his appointment as superintendent of Water and Sewer Operations for the Village on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, for the balance of the official year ending on April 3, 2023. Mr. Carey has 35 years experience working for public water suppliers and has been serving as a senior Water Plant consultant for H2M. Prior to that, he served as superintendent of the Massapequa Water District. He also sits on the New York State Drinking Water Quality Council. The superintendent position has been vacant since Frank Koch left Village service in 2015.

### **TREE CITY USA**

The Village of Garden City has earned recognition as a 2022 Tree City USA. The Arbor Day Foundation’s program highlights a community’s commitment to planting and caring for trees. Garden City is part of a network of more than 3,600 Tree City USAs with a combined total population of 155 million. This is the 32nd year Garden City has been designated as a “Tree City.” This is great news. I congratulate Commissioner Paul Blake and the Recreation and Parks Department. In April 2022, the Village celebrated Arbor Day with a tree planting ceremony near the Rainbow Monument. Members of the Village’s Civic Beautification Committee, Recreation Commission and Environmental Advisory Board joined Recreation Commissioner Paul Blake and Recreation Assistant Superintendent Sandy Young in planting a sugar maple tree on the empty green space on the west side of Rainbow Plaza off Clinton Road. A tree planting ceremony on the Village Green is being planned for April, to celebrate Arbor Day 2023. The Arbor Day observance is one of four requirements Garden City must achieve in order to be designated a “Tree City USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service with the National Association of State Foresters. The award recognizes communities that meet detailed, objective standards applied to trees on public property. Garden City also met the other three requirements: a tree board or department; a tree care ordinance; and an annual community forestry budget of a minimum expenditure per capita.

### **TREE PLANTINGS THIS SPRING**

The Recreation and Parks Department plants two trees for each tree removed in the Village. This policy is important, particularly in light of the fact that more than 400 Ash trees will have to be removed due to a beetle infestation affecting the U.S. According to Paul Blake, chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs, crews are starting to plant 122 new trees and will plant an additional 85-100 trees later in the spring.

### **VILLAGE BUDGET SESSIONS CONTINUE**

Work sessions to discuss the proposed \$69.194 million Operating Budget kicked off March 9. Four budget work sessions are scheduled this month, followed by a budget hearing on April 3. Work sessions take place in person in the Village Hall Board Room and via Zoom, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Remaining sessions include:

#### **Work Session II - Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

- Department of Public Works and Water Fund
- Administration
- Finance Department
- Other Unallocated Expenses and Revenues

#### **Work Session III - Thursday, March 23, 2023**

- Police Department
- Recreation, Pool and Tennis Funds

#### **Work Session IV - Thursday, March 30, 2023**

- Presentation of Changes/Final Budget

**Budget Hearing - Monday, April 3, 2023**

- Budget Hearing and Adoption

**BOOK DONATIONS**

Donations of gently used books will be gratefully accepted at the Garden City Library on Saturday, April 1, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The Friends of the Library requests items be in saleable condition. Once again, they ask that no magazines or textbooks be included. Also, books that are soiled, have evidence of mold, or have pages that are underlined, mildewed or written on should not be sent. All of the donated items become the property of the Friends of the Garden City Library.