

April 19, 2023

Last week I encouraged residents to email volunteer@gardencityny.net to learn more about volunteer opportunities in our Village government. There are many areas where you can have an impact on your local community. I was reminded this week as I participated in the swearing in of our Fire Chiefs and Line/Corporate Officers that there are no volunteer positions in our Village more critical than our Village Firefighters. Please join in congratulating these outstanding volunteers and thanking them for their service.

FIRE CHIEFS

The Garden City Fire Department held its annual election April 6, 2023. Congratulations to the following officers for the 2023-2024 year:

- Matthew Pearn, Chief of Department
- James Taunton, 1st Assistant Chief
- Jonathan Parrella, 2nd Assistant Chief
- Daniel Roeper, 3rd Assistant Chief

Line/Corporate Officers:

- Captain Engine: Matthew C. Carroll
- 1st Lieutenant Engine: Robert N. Carpentier
- 2nd Lieutenant Engine: Joseph A. Philippas

- Captain Truck: Conor Sproat
- 1st Lieutenant Truck: Christopher K. Maier
- 2nd Lieutenant Truck: Terrence Randell

- Secretary: Michael Reale
- Assistant Secretary: Ryan Moody
- Treasurer: Robert F. Kalb
- Assistant Treasurer: Donald B. Byrne

- First Battalion Delegate: Edward S. Moran

OPPOSITION TO GAMBLING CASINO AT NASSAU HUB

The Village Board of Trustees with three new members is voicing its opposition to the proposal of a 24/7 gambling Casino at the Nassau Hub. We recognize the significant negative impact this project would have on quality of life within our Village and in the surrounding communities. Serious security issues, compulsive gambling and the traffic impact on roadways already overburdened are all considerations. Many residents have joined a grassroots organization to oppose this project called, “Say No to the Casino” and they are working to educate residents about this proposal and helping to make sure their voices are heard by elected officials. It is our hope that the Nassau County Legislature will reject the Las Vegas Sands’ request to secure the transfer and control of the lease agreements for the Nassau Hub and Marriott Hotel sites, and we urge the Nassau County IDA to look towards developing appropriate uses of these properties which will enhance rather than negatively impact the surrounding communities.

TREES IN OUR VILLAGE

With Earth Day on April 20th and Arbor Day on April 28th, it’s a great time to give attention to the trees in our Village which are a large part of what makes Garden City such a beautiful place to live. Last year, the Garden City Environmental Advisory Board (“EAB”) presented a program, [Trees of Garden City - Our History and Our Future](#), that covered the history of trees in the original planning of Garden City by Alexander Stewart, the many benefits to communities of preserving and planting trees, and an overview of the Village tree program. That video is available for viewing on the Village website, and I am sharing some of the details of how our Village protects our Village trees. The Board of Trustees voted to add a horticulturalist/arborist to the staff to return us to the level of in-house expertise we enjoyed for many years with a Village Arborist. The Village is presently interviewing candidates for this position.

Recreation and Parks Department Tree Program: An important function of the Recreation and Parks Department is caring for Village trees. With over 12,000 trees on public land throughout the Village, taking care of these natural resources is vital to the character and overall health of the Village. Our Tree Division oversees the annual tree removal and planting programs, performs routine pruning and up-limbing on small to medium size trees, and keeps track of our tree inventory. For questions regarding the Tree Division, please call the Recreation and Parks main office at 516-465-4075. Here are several important things to remember regarding planting and removing trees (there are financial penalties associated with these codes, so we urge residents who are contemplating removing trees to contact the Recreation and Parks main office for guidance).

1. Trees and/or shrubs may not be planted in the Village median between the curb

line and the sidewalk without obtaining a permit from the Recreation and Parks Office. Any tree permitted to be planted in this space becomes property of the Village.

2. It is unlawful for any person to remove or destroy any tree on Village property, or in the Village right-of-way or any tree planted by the Village.

3. It is unlawful for any person to remove or destroy two or more trees within the Village of Garden City in a 12-month period, even if said trees are on “private property,” without first obtaining a permit from the office of Recreation and Parks.

Tree Pruning: Trees on Village property must be pruned only by Village Crews or Village-appointed contractors. If you have a Village tree by your property and the branches need attention, please call the Recreation and Parks Office, and your request will be placed on a list. Priority is given to conditions which might cause injury or property damage. Other requests are handled on a first call, first serve basis.

Annual Tree Removals: On a yearly basis, the Village engages an outside contractor to remove trees too large for our crew to safely handle. This is done through issuance of a public bid which calls out exactly which trees are to be removed, the removal of the tree stumps, and restoration of the area from which the tree was removed. NYS law requires us to award this work to the lowest priced responsible contractor. The Village always requires and checks references, insurance, and previous work to ensure that the removals are done according to our specifications.

Annual Tree Plantings: Once, and sometimes twice a year, the Village plants trees throughout the Village to replace any trees which have been removed, and to enhance the look of our streets, parks, green spaces, and other areas. As with our removals, these plantings are done through the issuance of a public bid, which calls out where trees are to be planted, along with the species of trees to be used. Care is taken to maintain the particular “look” of an area by planting trees which will blend in with the existing trees, while a blend of some 13 species is used to prevent a disease or blight from decimating entire neighborhoods of trees.

Residents who would like to have a tree planted in the median in front of their house may make a request by contacting the Recreation and Parks Office at 516-465-4075. Requests for trees will be evaluated by the Recreation and Parks Tree Division, and some requests may not be able to be honored. Final determination depends on location, size of the median, and the number of trees budgeted to be planted in any particular year.

ARBOR DAY 2023

On Friday April 28, Arbor Day will be celebrated in Garden City and in communities across the USA. The Arbor Day proclamation serves as one of the requirements for the Village of Garden City being named “Tree City” by the Arbor Day Foundation.

First celebrated in 1872, Arbor Day was established by passionate tree lover Julius Sterling Morton as a way to encourage farmers and homesteaders to plant trees that would provide shade, shelter, food, fuel and beauty to open areas. In New York, Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April.

Trees are essential to a healthy environment, helping to provide clean air and creating rich aesthetics for all. They are vital to our economy and contribute greatly to our everyday lives by providing paper for many different uses, lumber for the homes and businesses, maple syrup, fruits and nuts, decorations during the holidays, they add beauty to attract new business and tourism to our great state, as well as numerous other benefits.

To celebrate this occasion, the Recreation and Parks Department will plant a commemorative tree on the west side of the Village Hall property, between the Fire Department and the Village Gazebo. A small ceremony acknowledging the holiday will be held just prior to the planting of the tree. This ceremony will commence at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 28. Residents are invited to attend.

SENIOR CENTER UPDATE

The Senior Center on Golf Club Lane is close to re-opening. On Friday, the contractor, Belfor, had a large crew cleaning dust and dirt that accumulated from the sheetrock work, the HVAC replacement, and repair of the termite damage discovered during the restoration. On Monday, Recreation Maintenance was on site moving furniture back in place, hanging televisions and connecting wiring. Tuesday, fire alarm work was completed. Belfor crews are working on remaining punch list items. Once the Nassau County Fire Marshal returns for an inspection and all is found to be in order, the center could re-open as early as next week.

ROAD PAVING - HOW ARE ROADS CHOSEN?

Every five years, the Department of Public Works performs a complete inventory of the Village’s road network. Using data collected from that inventory, a six-year outlook paving program is established. Many factors are considered when creating the paving plan, such as road condition and budget. Further, the Department follows a pavement condition rating scale established by the NYS Department of Transportation. Roads are rated on a scale of 1 to 10 - 1 being the worst. Overall, no roads in Garden City are lower than a 4 rating, according to the most recent pavement inventory.

If the Department receives a road paving request and the road has been identified in the six-year outlook, a priority note will be added to that road and the Department will evaluate whether it can be swapped out for a road that is similar in size and condition that has been identified for an upcoming paving year. In the meanwhile, the Highway Department will evaluate the road in question and perform any patching as required, in an effort to increase rideability and longevity.

For each street on this updated road paving list, the timeframe for construction is within this year and any remaining roads will be completed in the Spring of the following calendar year (all within the same fiscal year).

HAPPENING THIS WEEK IN GARDEN CITY

Here are some events and meetings taking place this week in Garden City:

APRIL 21 - MAY 1 Egg scavenger hunt at the Garden City Library for a chance to win a \$50 Amazon gift card

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Prescription Drug Take Back Day at Garden City Police Headquarters

TUESDAY, APRIL 25 6:30 p.m. Architectural Design Review Board Meeting at Village Hall

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 10:00 a.m. Arbor Day celebration and tree planting on the west side of the Village Hall property, between the Fire Department and the Village Gazebo

SATURDAY, APRIL 29 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 15th Annual Sale at the Garden City Bird Sanctuary

SATURDAY, APRIL 29 GC For A Cure Fun Run/Walk and 5K Run/Walk will begin at 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. respectively at Garden City High School