

April 22, 2016

FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE
Mayor@gardencityny.net

By: Nicholas P. Episcopia

**FACT-FINDER VALIDATES VILLAGE'S APPROACH TO CSEA LABOR
NEGOTIATIONS**

An independently appointed Fact-Finder has validated the Village of Garden City's approach to CSEA labor negotiations. The New York State Public Employment Relations Board appointed Stephen M. Bluth to assist the Village and its CSEA "Rank and File" bargaining unit in resolving their impasse.

I am pleased to report that Mr. Bluth adopted – almost in its entirety – the Village's position at Fact-Finding. This is powerful, independent validation of the Village's approach to these negotiations. Conversely, Mr. Bluth rejected the CSEA's contentions and proposals, noting that the Village is "severely handicapped when considering wages and benefits" due to New York State's tax cap restrictions.

While the Fact-Finding process did not address every issue that the Village faced in negotiations, the report does an effective job of analyzing the fiscal challenges faced by the Village and producing a recommended successor contract that is fair to both the Village's CSEA 'Rank and File' employees and the Village residents.

Sadly, however, the union representative for the CSEA 'Rank & File' employees has rejected the Fact-Finder's opinion, leaving the Board of Trustees with no option but to move to legislative imposition.

CHIEFS OF THE GARDEN CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Board of Trustees join me in extending our sincere gratitude to Chief Joseph R. Nadolny for the dedicated and professional level of service that he rendered to our Village during his recent term as Chief of the Garden City Fire Department. Special thanks is also extended to the wives and families of all of the dedicated volunteer firefighters for sharing their husbands with the Village and for all of the sacrifices that they make to assure that we are protected.

I am pleased to report that as a result of the Fire Department election held, Chief William K. Castoro has been elected Chief of the Garden City Fire Department. He will be aided during the coming year by returning members as follows: First Assistant Brian G. Gallo, Second Assistant Chief Thomas Strysko and Third Assistant Chief Robert Horvath. We wish them well and thank them for their continued involvement.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

On April 14, I, along with my colleagues on the Village Board, attended the Village's 7th Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner. This evening of tribute is dedicated to those current members of the various Associations, Boards and Commissions who have volunteered unselfishly of their time and talents to our Village. This is truly what makes Garden City a special place.

SHOP AND DINE IN GARDEN CITY AND ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE

I encourage residents to make a conscious effort to choose Garden City as the place to shop and dine. It would be extremely helpful to our business community if you could make one purchase daily in the Village stores. Customer service, selection and quality are outstanding. While shopping or dining let the merchant know that you appreciate them and all that they offer.

GARDEN CITY BIRD SANCTUARY SPRING BENEFIT YARD SALE

The Garden City Bird Sanctuary 2016 Spring Benefit Yard Sale will take place on Saturday, April 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bird Sanctuary, opposite 181 Tanners Pond Road. The rain date is Saturday, May 7th.

Consider doing your spring cleaning, and then selling items that you no longer need at the sale. Your unwanted item could become someone else's treasure! Spaces for sellers are available for rent. The size of each space is 10 x 17 feet. For further information, email Garden City Bird Sanctuary Directors Liz Bailey at emb158@aol.com or Annette Seltzer at gcbirdsanctuary@gmail.com or call Liz at 516-248-8447.

The rental fees are used for maintenance, site improvements and programs conducted by the Garden City Bird Sanctuary, which is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING SCHEDULE

The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees' meetings will be held on Wednesday May 4, 2016 and Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. These meetings are held in the Board Room at Village Hall.