

February 1, 2023

### **HOUSING PROPOSAL AND CASINO DEVELOPMENT**

The Mayor's Village Governance Committee hosted a Meet and Greet with several Village Trustees on Tuesday at the Garden City Casino. Hempstead Town Supervisor Donald Clavin was a special guest. He spoke about Governor Kathy Hochul's proposed plan to create 800,000 new housing units over the next 10 years in New York State. Supervisor Clavin encouraged residents to contact their representatives in the Senate (Kevin Thomas) and Assembly (Ed Ra), as well as call the Governor's office to share any concerns about this housing proposal. I urge residents to do the same. As Mayor, I also directed the Village Administrator, Building Superintendent, Village Engineer and Village Counsel to conduct a survey of properties in proximity to LIRR Stations which could potentially be developed per the Governor's new initiative.

Supervisor Clavin also spoke about the proposed development of a casino, among other things, on the Coliseum site. The Village, under my direction, is reaching out to all the Mayors of Villages and Towns who may be impacted by the proposed Nassau Coliseum Casino Development. Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi is coordinating the Village studies and response to the development issues posed by the Governor's Office. We are seeking to learn all the details of the plans being proposed. I invited Mayor Waylyn Hobbs, Jr. to the meeting as Hempstead is one of the surrounding villages that would be impacted by the proposed project. I am requesting County Executive Bruce Blakeman discuss elements of the project with the Village as the County reviews the Las Vegas Sands application.

### **MOODY'S CREDIT RATING**

In anticipation of the Village's upcoming Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) sale, Village Treasurer Irene Woo held a ratings call with Moody's Investor Service, Inc. On January 25, Moody's again issued the Aaa rating with a stable outlook, citing in their credit opinion the Village's strengths, including conservative fiscal management, healthy reserves and liquidity. The credit opinion now also includes a rating for Environmental, Social and Governance impacts. The overall rating for the Village is CIS-1 (positive). The Environmental score is Moderately Negative. Moody's deems all issuers in Nassau County to have elevated exposures to storms and water stress. However, under the Social and Governance impacts, the Village's score is positive. Social impacts include strong employment, high resident income, and low violent crimes. Under Governance, the opinion stated, "Government operations are managed by certified and experienced professionals who are responsible for implementing policy objectives." The Village will be issuing \$46,778,000 in BANs for the six Water Well Treatment projects. These are one year notes and once the New York State grants are received (totaling \$25,670,098), the Village will issue long-term bonds for the difference. The Moody's report can be viewed on the Village's new website, [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net), under the Finance Department tab.

### **VILLAGE TAX PAYMENTS**

As of February 6, 2023, tax payments made by check must be made in the form of certified check or money order. Cash is also accepted. Certified checks and money orders may be placed in the secure Finance Department lockbox located in the second floor by the Building Department during office hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday), or anytime in the lockbox located by the Police Department. Please advise if a receipt is requested via email (indicate email address on payment envelope). In an effort to assist residents requesting to pay their taxes in cash during the Village Hall first floor renovation, the Finance Department Tax Office will be accepting cash tax payments at the second floor DPW office window at Village Hall by appointment only. Please call Angella Ciolino at (516) 465-4156 at least 24 hours prior to your requested time to confirm amount due. Payment must be made in full and exact change is required for cash payments. Certified check or money order tax payments may also be mailed to Angella Ciolino at Inc. Village of Garden City, 351 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, New York, 11530. Please call to confirm the amount due, as this is a delinquency collection period. Online Village tax payments are available through the Village website Bill Payment Center only until February 23, 2023, and will resume on June 1, 2023 for the new 2023/2024 tax year. The Payment Center can be accessed at [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net) via the Online Payment Icon on the homepage. Additional fees may apply.

### **UPCOMING LIRR PROJECTS IN THE VILLAGE**

The LIRR is about to undergo several initiatives in the Village related to raising the Cherry Valley Trestle, replacing the Cathedral Avenue Grade Crossing and replacing the Hilton Avenue Grade Crossing. I, along with numerous Department heads, took part in a phone call with our LIRR representative, Nick Fasano, to review the timing and scope of these upcoming projects.

### **ST. PAUL'S COST ESTIMATOR**

Lloyd Westerman, CEO of Westerman Construction, Co. recently met with members of the Board of Trustees, Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi and Building Superintendent Giuseppe Giovanniello to seek additional details about possible programming for the St. Paul's Main Building, as well as more details about what degree of the building will remain under façadism. Mr. Westerman has sent an RFI (Request For Information) to Mr. Giovanniello. Westerman was engaged to evaluate adaptive reuse, façadism and demolition of the St. Paul's Main Building. The firm is reviewing financial costs, energy consumption and environmental impact of demolishing the existing building or constructing a new structure based on previously obtained information from Beyer Blinder Belle and Thornton Tomasetti. Westerman will review the structure stability, mechanical systems, and general infrastructure of the existing building and use the information to assess the renovation costs for the building by comparing the existing systems to those of a new building of equal area and style. Since the building can be programmed a number of various ways and construction styles can vary in cost, their report will conclude with possible options for renovations and master planning for future phases.

### **BASKETBALL AND TENNIS COURTS RESURFACED**

Gold Coast Tennis has resurfaced the basketball and tennis courts at Edgemere Park and National Installation & GC Corp. resurfaced the tennis court at Hemlock Park. Pickleball courts have been painted on the tennis courts at both parks. The courts are open and available for use.

### **GCFD TRAINING FACILITY**

The Fire, Building and Public Works Departments have finalized site plans for the redevelopment of space at the Village Municipal Service Yard to incorporate a training site for the GCFD and a redesign of the sanitation transfer station. Once complete, this training facility will provide a safe, clean and enhanced area that the Department can utilize to train on numerous topics, including hose line stretching, ladders, VEIS (Vent, Enter, Isolate, Search), extrication, car fires and many others. Between the in-house training provided by membership, the use of third party vendors and the Nassau County Fire Service Academy, this site will allow us to provide the most up-to-date training to the Department. One of the tougher challenges facing the Department is its lack of real estate to provide a consistent and robust environment for training. This new site and training facility will alleviate those challenges.

### **NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT APPARATUS**

The Garden City Fire Department is actively reviewing plans and specifications for the purchase of a new engine. When finalized, the proposed engine will be presented to the Board of Trustees for authorization. Once funding is approved, an order will be placed for its purchase. The Fire Safety Committee recommended standardizing the configuration of Engine companies when they are purchased in the future. The Department currently has three engines - each situated at a fire station and made by three different manufacturers. If the fleet is standardized, volunteers could train on one engine, which would alleviate concerns when apparatus goes out of service. It would also make the training and qualification process much easier, according to Chief Matthew Pearn.

### **CURB, SIDEWALK AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

Pratt Brothers has completed the replacement of sidewalks, curb, and road paving at Barnes Lane, Lee Road, Pell Terrace, Raymond Court, and Westminster Road. The contractor has also completed the replacement of sidewalks and curbs at various locations throughout the Village.

### **FRIENDS OVERSTOCK BOOK BAG SALE**

The Friends of the Garden City Public Library will be hosting an Overstock Book Bag Sale on Friday, February 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saturday, February 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and Sunday, February 12, from 1 - 3 p.m. in the Library's Large Meeting Room on the lower level. All books will be priced to move quickly at discounted prices. Adult Fiction is .50¢ (exclusively adult contemporary fiction); Children's books are .25¢; or you can fill a medium-sized bag provided by the Friends for \$5.00. The Friends of the Library support Library programs for children, young adults and adults such as lectures, crafts, toddler programs, museum passes and more! For more information about the Friends visit [www.gardencitypl.org/friends/](http://www.gardencitypl.org/friends/)