

February 28, 2024

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As we approach the end of the Village's fiscal year, and the annual organizational meeting, I would like to take a moment to share with residents the opportunities to volunteer for the Village on one of the Village Boards and Commissions. These positions are an important part of our Village governance, and serving on these Boards or Commissions is an opportunity for residents to share their talents and contribute to our community in a meaningful way. Most of the terms that are expiring each year will be filled at the organizational meeting, with the exception of the Library Board where the staggered five year terms expire on December 31st of each year.

The appointments are made based on resident interest, resident qualifications, Village needs, and the absence of any conflicts or appearances of a conflict. For those who have submitted resumes in the past and were not appointed to a Board or Commission, I would ask that you contact our Village Clerk to confirm your ongoing interest and to make sure she has a current resume and letter of interest on file. If you are presently on a Board or Commission and your term is expiring, please contact the Village Clerk and advise whether you have an interest in continuing. If you do, please confirm that the Village Clerk has an updated resumé and a letter detailing your ongoing interest. While in the past there may have been a practice of continuing the same people in these positions indefinitely, I see merit in giving opportunities to new residents to participate and bring new ideas and expertise to the Boards and Commissions, though I also understand the benefit of continuity and experience particularly in certain positions. That being said, I, along with the Board of Trustees, will make the decisions recognizing the importance of the positions and in placing the candidates in the positions who we believe will best serve the Village.

We are considering expanding the Beautification Committee at the upcoming Organizational Meeting to include additional responsibilities and are hoping that we receive resumes from residents who are interested in helping with and expanding our ongoing beautification efforts throughout the Village. With progress being made towards a decision on St. Paul's and the historic Toll House in need of repairs and refurbishing, I welcome letters of interest and resumes from residents with passion and interest in our Village's history. Resumes and letters of interest should be emailed to Village Clerk Kelly Galanek at kgalanek@gardencityny.net. The following Boards and Commissions have openings effective April 1, 2024:

Architectural Design Review Board: This Board examines the exterior design of buildings for the purpose of maintaining appropriate standards of appearance with respect to the specific buildings and their relationship to their surroundings. Seven members of the Board are appointed for three-year terms.

Civic Beautification: Working with the Village Arborist, the Committee assists in selecting the type and placement of flowers and trees on the Village's many public properties and pursuing the long-held goal of making the Village an official arboretum.

Planning Commission: This seven-member Commission is appointed for terms of three years. The group reviews plans for the development of vacant areas, streets, parks, and other public places, and subdivisions of private property to assure consistency with established community standards. With the exception of a one-family dwelling on a single plot, the Planning Commission also performs site plan reviews for all new buildings, additions to buildings, altered land use activities, and projects containing more than one home. The Commission also conducts studies and is advisory to the Board of Trustees on matters relating to zoning, parking, and other issues.

Board of Ethics: The Board of Ethics recognizes that there are rules of ethical conduct for public officers and employees which must be observed if a high degree of moral conduct is to be obtained and if public confidence is to be maintained in our unit of local government. This Board ensures that all Village Officials and Employees are conducting themselves in such a manner. This Board is appointed by the Mayor.

Recreation Commission: This Board must have at least five members but can have up to eight members. The Commissioners oversee the development of the Village's Recreation Program.

Environmental Advisory Board: The Environmental Advisory Board is responsible to the Board of Trustees and reports on environmental matters affecting the Village. The Board can have at least six but not more than eight members appointed to four-year terms. The Chairperson is a member of the Board of Trustees. The Public Works superintendent serves as Recording Secretary.

Thank you to all the residents who are volunteering for the Village and to those looking to get more involved!

BEWARE OF SCAMS

Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson and the Garden City Police Department alert all residents regarding the prevalence of phone, email, and computer scams. During these scams, victims are financially targeted via telephone, email, or text by someone who makes false statements and promises in an effort to manipulate them into sending money by way of gift cards, illegal money transfers, Green Dot Money Packs, Money Grams, Western Union, and pre-paid money cards. Legitimate agencies do not ask for these types of payments. Examples of phone scams include IRS scams, prize or Lottery winners, utility companies, government scams, arrested family members, business and computer scams, checks and ATM identity thefts. Everyone should take all necessary precautions to protect their identity. This includes keeping your social security card and other important identification documents in a safe, secure place. Old bills or financial statements should be shredded before discarding them. Never give out your social security number or other important personal information over the phone or via text, email, or web notification to someone who contacts you regarding issues with your credit card or bank accounts. The Department recommends that, in these instances, call the number on your credit card and/or bank statement to check the status of your accounts. If you think you have been a victim of a scam, please get in touch with the Police Department by dialing 911.

PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 7

The Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall and via Zoom regarding a Local Law for maintenance of vacant buildings and the establishment of vacant building and real property in default registries.

TREE PLANTINGS THIS SPRING

The Recreation and Parks Department is gearing up for the spring tree planting cycle. The Department has a goal to plant two trees for each tree removed in the Village. This policy is important, particularly in light of the many Ash trees which 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, 217 new trees have already been planted, and an additional 65 trees will be planted later in the spring.

JANUARY POLICE ACTIVITY

- 1,969 incidents
- 54 investigations
- made six arrests

- impounded 14 vehicles
- responded to 142 medical service calls
- responded to 94 auto accidents
- made one juvenile arrest
- issued 1,745 parking tickets
- issued 1,059 moving traffic violation tickets
- issued seven quality of life appearance tickets (soliciting, disorderly conduct violations, for example)

2024 VILLAGE ELECTION: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The General Village Election for 2024 will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. 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:

For A Better Garden City Party

Trustee
Two-Year Term
Charles P. Kelly

Trustee
Two-Year Term
Richard A. Williams

Trustee
Two-Year Term
Michael J. Sullivan

Trustee
Two-Year Term
Lawrence N. Marciano, Jr.

Community Agreement Party

Trustee
Two-Year Term
Vinny Muldoon

Trustee
Two-Year Term
Judy Courtney

Trustee
Two-Year Term
Jessica Tai

Trustee

Two-Year Term
Bruce A. Torino

Common Ground

Trustee
Two-Year Term
Larry Nedelka

EARLY VOTING

It's never been easier to vote in the Village Election scheduled for March 19, 2024. Absentee ballot applications and early mail ballot applications are both available online on the Village website under the Business/Clerk's office. Applications are also available in the lobby of Village Hall. Whether you are submitting an absentee or early mail application, if you are requesting your ballot by mail, the application must be received by March 12. If you are requesting to pick up your ballot in person at Village Hall, we must have the application by March 18. ALL absentee or early mail ballots must be received by the close of polls, 9:00 p.m., on the day of the election, March 19, to be counted. Ballots received after this day/time will not be counted.

BUDGET WORK SESSIONS

The Board of Trustees will conduct work sessions to review the Tentative 2024-25 Operating and Capital Budgets in person in the Village Hall Board Room and via Zoom beginning March 14, 2024, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Here is the full schedule:

Thursday, March 14th, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

- Budget Overview
- Building Department
- DPW & Water

Wednesday, March 20th, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

- Fire
- Police
- Administration
- Finance
- Other Unallocated Expenses & Revenues

Thursday, March 28th, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

- Library
- Recreation, Pool & Tennis
- Summary of Changes

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

- **SATURDAY, MARCH 2** 10:00 a.m. Egg painting at the Library. Must register.
- **SATURDAY, MARCH 2** 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friends Pop Up Book Sale at the

Library

- **SUNDAY, MARCH 3** 9:30 a.m. Pickleball at the Field House. Nominal fee.
- **SUNDAY, MARCH 3** 2:45 p.m. Family Fun Time at the Field House
- **MONDAY, MARCH 4** 1:30 p.m. Movie Matinee: *Thelma & Louise* at the Library
- **MONDAY, MARCH 4** 7:00 p.m. “Understanding Alzheimer’s & Dementia” at the Library. Must register.
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 5** 4:00 p.m. Teen Advisory Board Meeting at the Library. Must register.
- **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6** 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting at Village Hall.
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 7** 11:15 a.m. Mat Yoga with Maggie at the Senior Center. Call 385-8006.
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 7** 7:30 p.m. Village Board Meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom.