

September 11, 2024

The Village is nearing completion of the mandated lead service line inventory, and I would like to thank all the residents who have helped us in compiling this inventory and those who have gone out of their way to help raise awareness about the serious public health issues associated with lead service lines.

Over 800 residents sent pictures of the service lines entering their homes to help identify the material! It's not too late to help with these photographs. There is a link on our Village website and the link [<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/25af1495a43e4593872fef3eeceb26f8>] is included here to make this easy for residents. If you need assistance, you can contact our Water Department at 516-465-4005.

Residents have also allowed us access to 164 homes to inspect the service lines in our recent door-to-door campaign. If we missed you, please call to schedule an appointment.

What have we learned so far? Within the Village, our Water Department delivers water to 1,261 homes with known lead service lines, 1,716 homes with non-lead service lines, and 3,974 homes with unknown service lines.

A public notice is being mailed to all Village residents who receive water from the Village based on the recent test results detailed below. The Village is required to perform its testing on homes with lead service lines, and it is likely we will continue to have similar results as long as the lead service lines remain in the Village.

While great expense has gone into purifying our Village water, and those results are detailed in the annual Village water report [<https://www.gardencityny.net/DocumentCenter/View/2636/2023-Drinking-Water-Quality-Report-PDF>], having a lead service line to your home is known to introduce lead to the water supply as it is entering your home. According to the EPA, there is no level of lead that is considered safe. Lead can enter drinking water from a variety of plumbing materials. The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes and brass or bronze faucets and fixtures. A service line is the pipe that connects the water main to the plumbing in a home or building. When any part of that pipe is made of lead, it is called a lead service line.

### **LEAD LEVELS IN WATER**

The Incorporated Village of Garden City found elevated levels of lead in the drinking water in some homes/buildings and has exceeded the action level for lead. Specifically, this action level was exceeded in 16 of 61 homes tested in required compliance samples in the six-month monitoring ending on June 30, 2024. It is important to note that, as determined by routine samples from the 10 Village wells that are the source of Village water, the source water has not been found to contain lead. When water is in contact with pipes (or service lines) or plumbing materials that contain lead for several hours, the lead may be entering drinking water. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead. New homes may also have lead; even "lead-free" plumbing may contain some lead.

The Village began a corrosion control study in November 2022 and continues to monitor the effectiveness of the system through water quality sampling at homes that have known lead service lines.

The Water Department began conducting home inspections for lead service lines August 15, 2024. Between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, a Village employee may knock on your door

and request to look at your service line in your basement. The employee will have Village Water Department clothing, a Village marked vehicle and proper ID. The inspection will only take 2-3 minutes. If you are not comfortable having someone in your home you may take a photo of your service line and either email to: [gardencitysampling@h2m.com](mailto:gardencitysampling@h2m.com) or show it to the person at your home. Thank you for your cooperation for this Health Department mandated program.

Further, the Village offers free lead water testing to all homeowners who are served water by the Village. Residents may request a sampling kit, which will be dropped off. Residents should leave completed samples outside their front door of the Village to collect. Residents will then be emailed the test results.

For more information regarding what has occurred and what actions the Village has taken, please visit the Village's website at [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net) to read the public notice [<https://www.gardencityny.net/DocumentCenter/View/2833/Water-Department-Press-Release---September-9-2024-PDF>].

### **TULLAMORE PARK SAFETY SURFACE**

New safety surface is being installed at the Tullamore Park playground area. Since Wednesday, September 11, the playground area has been closed until the project is completed. We anticipate approximately 10 working days to complete the work, weather dependent.

### **PLAYING FIELDS, PLANE NOISE TOPICS OF EAB MEETING**

The Environmental Advisory Board ("EAB") will meet Wednesday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall and via Zoom. Recreation and Parks Assistant Superintendent Andy Hill will speak about playing field treatment this past season, discussing methods, outcomes and plans for the upcoming year. EAB member Laurence Quinn will also provide an update about FAA noise, specifically what problems are associated with excessive airplane noise, how "airplane noise annoyance" is measured by the FAA, why the FAA method does not reflect actual airplane noise issues, how airplane noise can be mitigated and how/where to address complaints about airplane noise.

### **BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY: SCHOOL BUS SAFETY**

This is Part Two of a four-part series of articles by the Garden City Police Department addressing Back-to-School safety issues. In last week's article, we addressed safe driving practices. This week's article will cover school bus safety. Parents, grandparents, guardians, and teachers are encouraged to use this article to help teach children about school bus safety.

#### **Bus Stops:**

- Hold your child's hand and walk together to the bus stop in the morning. Research has shown that you should hold their hand on the sidewalk and in parking lots until your child is at least eight years old. Furthermore, until they are 10 years old, you should hold their hand while crossing the street.
- Stay with your child at the bus stop. If you cannot stay with your child, arrange for another trusted adult to accompany them.
- When waiting for the school bus, have the children stay orderly and stand back from the curb.
- Meet your child at the bus stop after school; never wait on the opposite side of the street. Talk to your child about what they should do if you are delayed and cannot meet them as usual.
- Discuss with your children what they should do if they accidentally get on the wrong bus or miss their regular bus stop.
- When children get off the bus, they should use the handrail and look out the door to the rear of

the bus before stepping off the bottom step. Research by the Pupil Transportation Safety Institute tells us that more and more vehicles are passing stopped school buses on the right shoulder – where the door is located.

- Remember, clothing can get caught. Jackets, sweatshirt drawstrings, backpack straps, scarves, and loose clothing may get caught on bus handrails or doors. This could be dangerous while getting on or off the bus.
- Children should take five giant steps straight out from the school bus door and out of the danger zone.
- Teach your child to make eye contact with the bus driver and wait for the driver to signal them before they cross in front of the bus.
- Remind your children to look both ways for traffic before crossing the street. Never assume cars will stop for the bus.
- Never go back for anything you left on the bus, and never bend down near or under the bus.

#### **School Bus Behavior:**

- Enter and exit school buses in an orderly manner, using handrails where provided.
- After getting on the bus, go directly to your seat and remain seated, facing forward.
- Students need to listen to the bus driver for special instructions or information.
- Speak quietly and politely to the other children near you.
- Do not jump up and down, fight or tease other passengers, or be unruly. These activities can distract the bus driver, and they may not be able to give proper attention to driving.
- Keep aisles clear.
- Keep heads, hands, arms, feet, and other objects inside the bus at all times.
- Never run or throw items inside the bus.
- Help keep the bus clean and in good condition. Report any unsafe or unsanitary conditions to the bus driver.

#### **Motorist Reminders:**

- Remember, if you are approaching a school bus from the front or behind and its yellow lights are flashing, the bus is preparing to stop.
- It is illegal – and very dangerous – to pass or overtake a stopped school bus when emergency red lights are flashing. These flashing lights mean the bus is either picking up or discharging students.
- If the bus's red lights are flashing, you must stop and remain stopped until the red warning lights are off. This includes school buses that are on the opposite side of divided highways, on multiple-lane roadways, in parking lots, and on school grounds.
- The first-time fine for illegally passing a school bus ranges from \$250 to \$400, five points on your license and/or 30 days in jail; subsequent violations carry fines ranging from \$600 to \$1,000, five points on your license and/or up to 180 days in jail.
- Be advised that many buses are now equipped with cameras, which may result in violators receiving tickets for passing a stopped school bus.

Next week, read part three of the Back-to-School series, “Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety.”

## **BRONZE RENOVATION PLAQUE INSTALLED AT LIBRARY**

A bronze plaque has been installed at the Garden City Public Library to commemorate the renovation of the Children's Room, which was completed in May 2023. The project, which took place over a three-year period from 2020 to 2023, created a lively environment with colorful, decorative furniture, a new Smartboard to encourage interactive play, reading-based activities, and more activities designed to boost critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills through unique hands-on learning opportunities. The plaque includes the names of current and former Library and Village Trustees involved in the project. Also mentioned on the plaque are Library Director Marianne Malagon and Assistant Director Ralph Guitéau, former and present Village Counsel and H2M architects + engineers. The late Bobby Menges, a Garden City resident who lost his battle with cancer at age 19, served as a student ambassador to the Library and advocated for the renovation. He too was mentioned on the plaque. Produced by US Bronze of New Hyde Park, the plaque is located near the front entrance.

## **HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14** 1:00 p.m. The Carlyle Players will perform *Now and Then* at the Library

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16** 1:30 p.m. Monday Movie Matinée: *Master Gardener* at the Library

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17** 6:30 p.m. Zoning Board of Appeals meeting at Village Hall

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18** 7:00 p.m. Lighting of the gold tree on the Village Green in honor of Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18** 7:30 p.m. Environmental Advisory Board meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19** 10:00 a.m. Mah-Jongg at the Library. Must register.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19** 6:15 p.m. Traffic Commission meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19** 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21** 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Friends pop-up book sale at the Library

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21** 1:00 p.m. Historian John Ellis Kordes presents 30th anniversary of his documentary film, *A.T. Stewart's Garden City* at the Library

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24** 7:00 p.m. Book discussion: *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides at the Library. Must register.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25** 11:15 a.m. Travel presentation at the Senior Center for a "Southern Charm" trip, taking place April 21-27 to Charleston, Savannah and Jekyll Island through AAA and Collette Tours

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27** 3:30 p.m. Multigenerational chess tournament on the Library lawn. Sign up at [www.gardencitypl.org](http://www.gardencitypl.org).