

November 27, 2024

As you read this column, I hope you are all enjoying friends and family over this holiday weekend. It is a time of year we come together and express gratitude, and during this week our Village is filled with gatherings and one of our iconic community events, the Turkey Trot!

As your Mayor, I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve such a wonderful Village, and I hope my work helps to keep our community strong, cohesive, and the magical place I was lucky enough to grow up in and where I enjoyed raising my children. I have endeavored to focus on the many topics that unite us as a Village, and I plan to continue doing that. Protecting our limited green space, advocating for laws and policies that protect our young people and the health and quality of life of all residents, supporting a diverse array of Village programming and focusing on improving facilities, keeping our community safe, and supporting the many organizations and events that are essential to the community connections and friendships that make Garden City unique.

I have been working with Village staff and Trustees Courtney and Tai on a new Village app that we hope to release by January! It is an exciting project, and I look forward to seeing how we are able to better share with residents messages about all the wonderful things happening here in our Village, and provide an easy way for residents to have their questions and concerns answered efficiently.

GCFD MONUMENT

The Board approved a proposal by Hanlon Sculpture Studio, LLC for a Fire Department monument, which will stand approximately six feet tall and commemorate all members who have volunteered for 50 or more years. The monument will be erected on the west side of Village Hall, in the existing Fire Department monument area.

CASINO LITIGATION

The Board has retained Cullen & Dykman and Sive Paget for litigation regarding the 42-year lease between Nassau County and Las Vegas Sands at the Hub. Nassau County is currently in the Environmental Review Process, formally known as the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process, a necessary step in Las Vegas Sands' quest for a casino license at the Nassau Hub. A copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Las Vegas Sands' casino is available on the Nassau County website [<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/5734/Sands-DEIS>]. The County will hold a special public hearing Monday, December 9, at 5:00 p.m. at 1550 Franklin Avenue. For more information visit www.nocasinonassau.org.

VILLAGE TREE LIGHTING AND HANUKKAH FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

The Village and Chamber of Commerce will hold the annual Village Tree Lighting and Hanukkah Festival of Lights on Sunday, December 8, 2024, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Holiday music will be provided by the Music Academy Foundation and the Garden City High School Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Broadway Bound dancers will also perform. The event will also feature a special visit from Santa himself. The Garden City High School National Art Honor Society will be selling hand-painted ornaments with winter and holiday themes.

RECREATION & PARKS IS HIRING

We are looking for anyone 16 years or older to hire for our programs. We have an after-school program that would involve playing organized games with children, led by one of the recreational leaders. The program

runs December 3 - February 13, on Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Thursdays from 3:30-6:00 p.m. You can do one or all days. In the summer, we also have a summer program that runs at the 5 parks in The Village of Garden City. We have arts and crafts and sports all day. If either of those sound like something you may be interested, please contact sceballos@gardencityny.net or visit the Cottages at 108 Rockaway Avenue for an interest form.

CARDBOARD RECYCLING PERMIT FEES WAIVED

The Village is waiving the permit requirement for residents at the Municipal Yard for the month of December for cardboard recycling. The Board recognizes the community's need for accessible recycling options, especially during the holiday season when cardboard waste increases. Proof of residency is required.

FORFEITURE OF ASSETS

Under the New York State Civil Practice Law, certain funds received from forfeiture of assets are restricted to fund "unbudgeted" police expenditures. The Police Department received \$200,000 from the Nassau County District Attorney's Civil Forfeiture Unit. As set forth in Article 13-A, Section 1349 of the NYS Practice Laws and Rules, these funds will be used for non-budgeted expenses. These funds have been approved to cover expenses incurred during the World Cup Cricket Tournament and for future use by the Department to purchase police safety and investigative equipment. Commissioner Kenneth Jackson noted that many of the funds received were a result of great police and detective work in solving numerous cases.

GARDEN CITY POOL PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The Board has approved the purchase of new playground equipment at the Garden City Pool. This proposal includes a play unit for ages two to five, play unit for ages five to 12, demolition and disposal of old equipment, installation of new equipment, installation of new synthetic turf safety surface and freight. ARPA funds are being used for this purchase. The initial equipment did not include renovation of the swing sets. However, because the Grove Street tennis court renovations project came in under budget, additional ARPA funds are now available. The current swing sets need to be raised to come into compliance; the new sets will include accessible seating options.

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

- **MONDAY, DECEMBER 2** 1:30 p.m. Movie Matinée: *When Harry Met Sally* at the Library
- **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3** 4:00 p.m. Teen Advisory Board Meeting at the Library. Must register.
- **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3** 7:00 p.m. Yoga With Kimberly at the Library. Must register.
- **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4** 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission meeting at Village Hall
- **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5** 7:00 p.m. Friendship Bracelets for Community Service at the Library. Must register.
- **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6** 6:00 p.m. Western Property Owners Association Tree

Lighting in the park at the south side of the New Hyde Park Road Business District

- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8** 3:30 p.m. Village Christmas Tree Lighting and Hanukkah Festival of Lights on the Village Green
- **MONDAY, DECEMBER 9** 7:30 p.m. Library Board of Trustees meeting at the Library
- **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10** 11:30 a.m. Lotus Fitness workshop at the Senior Center
- **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10** 2:00 p.m. Holiday lights lecture with Art and Susan Zuckerman at the Library
- **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12** 2:00 p.m. Christmas Sing-A-Long with George Salem at the Senior Center
- **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12** 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom
- **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14** 1:00 p.m. Sports lecture with Les Wolff at the Library. Must register.
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15** 2:00 p.m. Rhonda Kay and the Backstage Trio perform at the Library
- **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17** 1:30 p.m. A Day at the Movies: *Elf* at the Senior Center. Register by calling 516-385-8006.