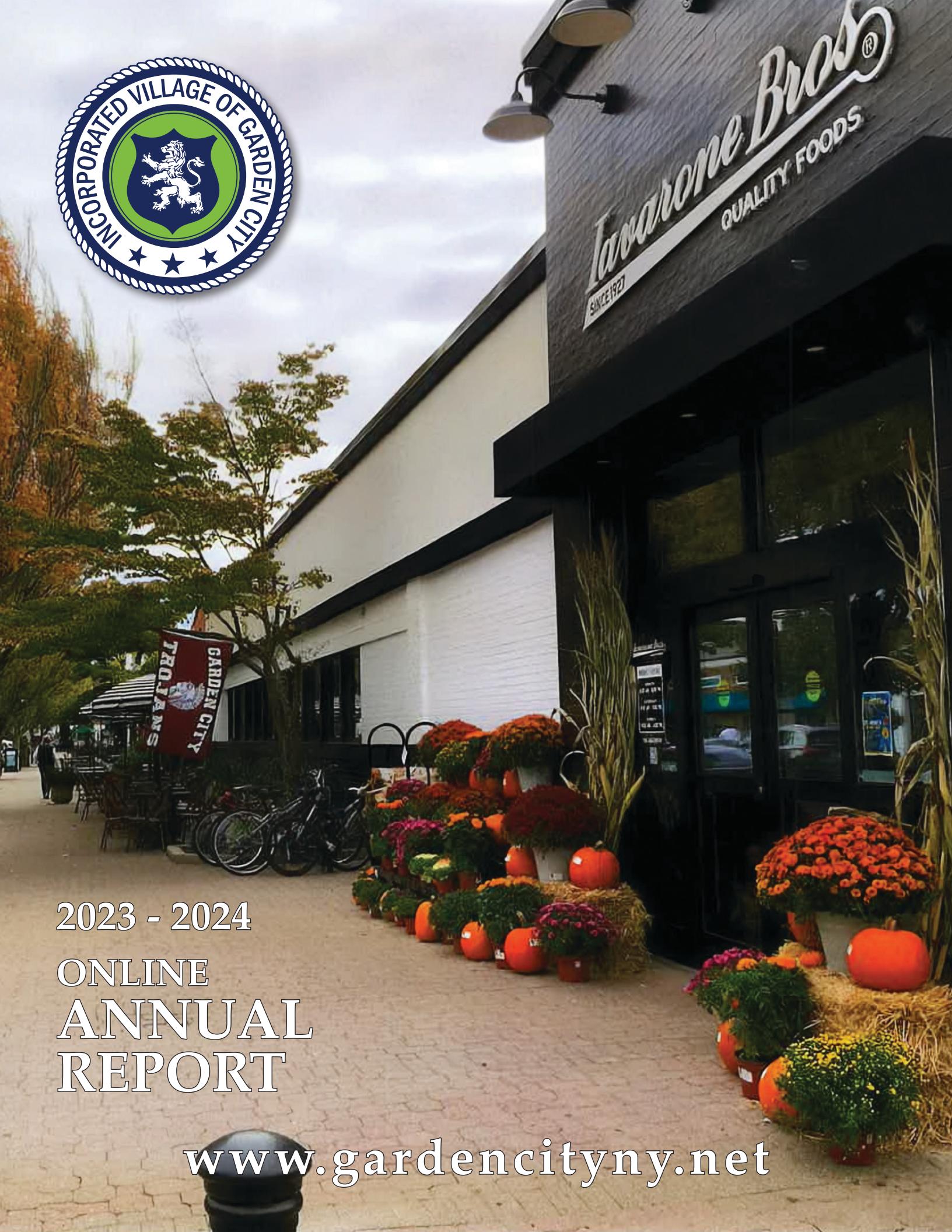




2023 - 2024  
ONLINE  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

[www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net)



# Incorporated Village of GARDEN CITY

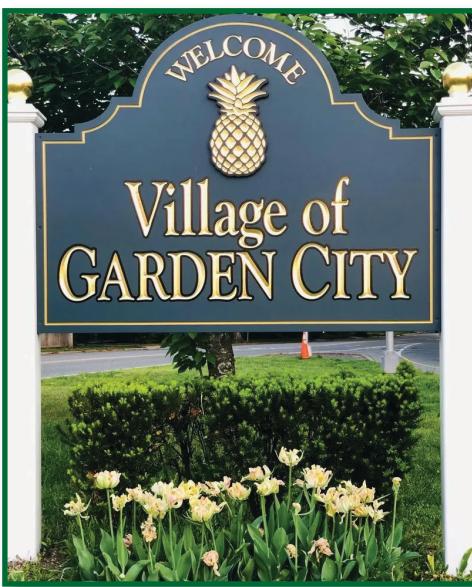
351 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, New York 11530

Village Hall Business Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday)

Telephone Number: (516) 465-4000 • Fax Number: (516) 742-5223

Village Web-Site: [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net)

Visit our redesigned website to stay informed on what's happening in your Village. The new site helps optimize digital interactions for residents and staff. User-friendly search menus provide faster access to pay your bills, fill out forms, read about the latest Village happenings, review Sanitation schedules and locate Village personnel contact information. A News Flash feature alerts residents of any Village-related emergencies. With the MyAccount feature, residents can customize their viewing experience and sign up for notifications. The "Notify Me" feature allows residents to subscribe to an unlimited number of email lists. By creating a free website account, residents can manage their email subscriptions, save fillable form progress, report a concern and a host of other things. [Visit www.gardencityny.net to see more!](http://www.gardencityny.net)



## LOCATION

Central Nassau County  
20 miles east of midtown Manhattan  
5.3 square miles

## GOVERNMENT

Founded in 1869 and Incorporated in 1919  
Governed by a Mayor and seven Trustees  
Village Administrator and Executive Staff

## POPULATION

23,272 (2020 United States Census)

## SERVICES

Police, Fire, Business Office, Building, Engineering,  
Street/Highway, Water/Sewer, Sanitation Recycling,  
Recreation/Parks and Justice Court

## RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Homes - 6,486  
Condominiums - 513  
Apartments/Co-ops - 636

## BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Commercial area includes banks, investment firms, office complexes, retail businesses, major department stores, variety of restaurants and food establishments and a four-star hotel

## SCHOOLS

Seven public school buildings, eight private/parochial schools and one university (Adelphi University)

## HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Eleven houses of worship

# Table of Contents

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This is the ninety-first published Annual Report, covering the 2023-2024 fiscal year (June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024). It highlights the operations of the municipal government of Garden City. The purpose of the Annual Report is to keep the residents of Garden City informed on the activities of the past year. This is vital in the process of interactive government. It should be noted that references are made to State, County, Town and School District; these agencies operate separately and have their own power of taxation.

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## To Our Fellow Residents of Garden City,

On behalf of the Garden City Board of Trustees, it is my honor to present the Annual Report for Fiscal Year June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024. While the primary purpose of this document is to provide fiscal year-end financial data, it also provides you with summaries from our department heads and an update on projects undertaken during the fiscal year and planned for the future.



The Board of Trustees serves to provide oversight of the many services and programs offered by the Village. We are the guardians of your tax dollars, and we take that responsibility seriously. For the 2023-2024 tax year, we had a tax levy of \$53,273,520 and a General Fund Operating Budget of \$69.2 million. We finished the year with a budget surplus of \$890,408. We have continued our AAA bond rating, the highest possible rating assigned by credit rating agencies.

2023-2024 was a very active year on the Board of Trustees, and 2024-2025 continues to be busy with hard work being done to protect and improve this wonderful community we have chosen to call home.

The Village Traffic Commission had a very active year with strong leadership guiding important traffic calming and pedestrian safety improvements across the Village, including the installation of a raised crosswalk with bump outs on 7th street, as well as an added crosswalk to allow safe crossing of South Avenue, between the Adelphi section and town. The Village also saw the introduction of speed humps to slow traffic on side streets, and a process has been identified for residents to request this effective traffic calming measure on their own blocks.

Great strides have been made in the ongoing initiative to protect the green space in our Village with the designation of over a dozen Village-owned properties as parkland by the Board of Trustees. This action provides an important extra layer of protection for these parcels, and I hope other communities will follow our example.

Concerns of a vape shop opening in the center of our town where so many young residents gather led to quick action by the Board of Trustees, and we now have a local law on the books limiting certain uses within the Village to protect the family-oriented nature of our town and to protect the children who live here.

The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) continues to focus on community education and improved engagement on important sustainability topics relating to conservation of water and energy, trees, native plants, and recycling. The youth roundtable on sustainability has become a regular event that takes place in early January, drawing high school students, college students and recent graduates, with participation last year that included university professors and professionals working in the field of sustainability. Education on the important public health issue of residents' lead service lines remains on at the forefront of the EAB's outreach efforts.

The Village continues to take an active role in opposing a casino at the Nassau Hub, unanimously adopting a resolution that not only opposes a casino at the site but also urges the Nassau County IDA to look towards developing appropriate uses of these properties which will enhance Garden City and our surrounding communities rather than negatively impacting our collective quality of life.

In January, Botti Studio of Architectural Arts removed and crated the beautiful stained glass windows from the St. Paul's Chapel, which are being safely stored until final usage is determined. The deteriorating condition of the windows required this step, and the Village was lucky to have a world renowned expert in the field undertake this delicate removal and safe storage. The Toll House, another part of our rich Village history, benefited from funding for much-needed repairs to its roof and interior, and I look forward to residents again being able to access this wonderful and historic building.

Following a public opinion poll in October 2023, the Board of Trustees and a talented group of resident volunteers serving in the advisory committee worked to identify a new approach to finding a solution for the St. Paul's Main Building, something that has eluded Village leaders for three decades.

Most residents know that I have been an advocate of trying to execute a solution for St. Paul's that reflects the will of residents and adheres to a data-based process guided by professionals from BCI. While I have worked with the current Board of Trustees towards that goal, I recently announced an impasse due to different views on the process. As your Mayor, I am committed to keep trying to find the right result for St. Paul's and remain hopeful that the outcome reflects what the majority of residents want and are willing to pay for. The prior Board and resident volunteers on my advisory committee have joined in advocating for a path to accomplish this with a survey that presents all options so that people can find their choices in what is presented.

As part of our continuing effort to update monuments around the Village, the September 11, 2001 memorial on the Village Green got a facelift, with new pavers and improved lighting, including the installation of 24 in-ground recessed lights; the 23 lights placed in a circle represent the Garden City residents killed during the World Trade Center attacks and one center light represents those who passed after 9/11 from related illnesses.

The Village of Garden City is fortunate to have many resident volunteers who work together to make our government function and prosper, and to maintain the quality of life and many amenities we enjoy in the Village. In addition to the elected Board of Trustees, we have Boards and Commissions made up of resident volunteers appointed by the Board of Trustees.

Garden City is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. Our Village not only offers a vibrant business district, with many opportunities to shop and dine, but also acres of playing fields, parks and recreational venues for all to enjoy. There's a lot happening in our Village. I encourage you to visit our website, [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net), which is being updated regularly, and to follow the Village on our various social media platforms, Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter). Please follow for more information about a new Village app that will transform the way residents are able to communicate with the Village. We are hoping to release the app by January 2025!

Very truly yours,

Mary Carter Flanagan  
*Mayor, Incorporated Village of Garden City*

# A History of Garden City

Alexander Turney Stewart had immigrated as a youth from Ireland in 1818 to eventually become a self-made merchant millionaire in New York City. In 1869 he purchased 7,170 acres of the Hempstead Plains, a treeless expanse in central Long Island, being offered at auction by the Town of Hempstead with a successful bid of \$55 per acre. This land extended from what is now Floral Park to Bethpage and from the Town border at Old Country Road to near Hempstead Turnpike.

Stewart's goal was to create a model Village of country living for those working in the City. He facilitated that by creating a railroad to provide easy transportation between the two locations. The initial development was concentrated just to the north of Hempstead Village in an area of about 750 acres. Under the guidance of John Kellum, his architect, streets were rapidly laid out, trees planted, a municipal water works started, and a hotel constructed opposite the railroad station. Some commercial buildings were erected and houses of various sizes constructed by James L'Hommedieu, which were initially to be rented. By 1874, 40 families lived in the Village.

Upon Stewart's sudden death in 1876, his wife, Cornelia, continued development with the assistance of Judge Henry Hilton, his financial advisor. In memory of her husband she had the Cathedral of the Incarnation built, along with St. Paul's School for boys, St. Mary's School for girls, and a See house for the Bishop of the Episcopal Church, which moved its seat from Brooklyn to Long Island. The land west of the Village was devoted to a profitable farming operation.

When Cornelia Stewart died childless in 1886, the next seven years were spent settling the Stewart estate among cousins and pretenders. In 1893 the heirs formed the Garden City Company to continue orderly development of the Village. In 1906 a tract to the west was sold to become Garden City Estates and in 1910 the Garden City Company started development of the area to the east.

By 1918 Central Garden City and Garden City Estates each had about 160 homes with 50 more located in the east. Consolidation of government of these sections was finally achieved under our Community Agreement, leading to incorporation in 1919 using the boundaries of the existing school district. A fourth section west of the Estates was formed in 1925. Under the capable administration of George Hubbell, initially manager for the Garden City Company and then multi-term mayor, the Village prospered to become the vibrant Village of today with 7,500 homes and 23,000 residents.

## The Garden City Archives

The Village Historians are responsible for collecting and preserving material related to the history of the Village, and making this material available to interested residents and those doing research. Included in the collection are photographs, maps, correspondence, newspaper articles, scrapbooks, artifacts, records of community activities, local telephone books, yearbooks, and books on Long Island history in general. William A. Bellmer and Patricia Siler are volunteers appointed by the Mayor.



William A. Bellmer

The Garden City Historical Society Museum on Eleventh Street includes another historical records repository, administered by that organization.



Patricia Siler

Over 2,700 items in the Village Archives have been digitized and are available to view in the online collection at [www.NYHeritage.org](http://www.NYHeritage.org). *The Garden City News*, our Village newspaper, has had digital reproductions made from the microfilms in the Archives. They are available for review on a Garden City Public Library Reference Department computer for the years 1930 and subsequent.

The Village Historians can be contacted at [Historian@GardenCityNY.net](mailto:Historian@GardenCityNY.net) to answer questions related to our history or to discuss the acquisition of any items residents may have (or copies of them) that will augment our collection.



Alexander Turney Stewart  
painting by Thomas Rossiter



Cornelia Stewart  
painting by Susan Bachelder

# Board of Trustees

This Annual Report contains information relating to the Village's various Departments as well as budget information for the period of June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024. The Board of Trustees, who were in office at the close of this fiscal year, are shown.



**BRUCE J. CHESTER**  
*Deputy Mayor  
Estates Section*



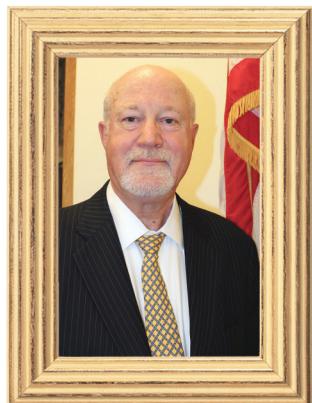
**MARY CARTER FLANAGAN**  
*Mayor  
Western Section*



**EDWARD T. FINNERAN**  
*Trustee  
Eastern Section*



**JESSICA TAI**  
*Trustee  
Estates Section*



**BRUCE A. TORINO**  
*Trustee  
Central Section*



**MICHELE BEACH HARRINGTON**  
*Trustee  
Estates Section*



**VINCENT MULDOON**  
*Trustee  
Eastern Section*



**JUDY COURTNEY**  
*Trustee  
Eastern Section*

# Administration, Organization and Village Counsel



**RALPH V. SUOZZI**  
Village Administrator



**KELLY GALANEK**  
Village Clerk



**COURTNEY ROSENBLATT**  
Secretary to the  
Board of Trustees

maintain their own offices and staff independent of Village offices.

Cullen and Dykman, LLP, acts as the general Village Attorney and advises on all municipal legal matters, including legislation (local laws), zoning and other ordinances, real estate assessments, public hearings and elections.

Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, provides legal services in connection with collective bargaining agreements and labor matters.

In addition, Hawkins Delafield & Wood, LLP, is engaged as municipal bond counsel for special bond and note issues.

## Village Administrator

Garden City's Chief Administrative Officer fills the role of Village Administrator. Responsible to the Mayor and Board of Trustees, he coordinates the activities of the Village Departments to ensure the effective delivery of municipal services.

Duties of the Office include providing the Board with essential information and recommendations that are necessary in formulating policies designed to maintain and enhance Village operations. The Village Administrator also assists the Village Treasurer in coordinating and preparing the Village budget and its implementation after adoption by the Board.

## Village Clerk

The Village Clerk serves as the Clerk to the Board of Trustees. Responsible for the recording of all of its proceedings and decisions, the Village Clerk is the Election Officer for Village Elections and the Collector of Taxes. In addition to maintaining all legal notices for the Village of Garden City, the Village Clerk is the custodian of all municipal records and facilitator of other duties as determined by the Board of Trustees and Village Administrator.

## Executive Staff

Members of the Executive Staff represent each Department of the Village and report directly to the Village Administrator.

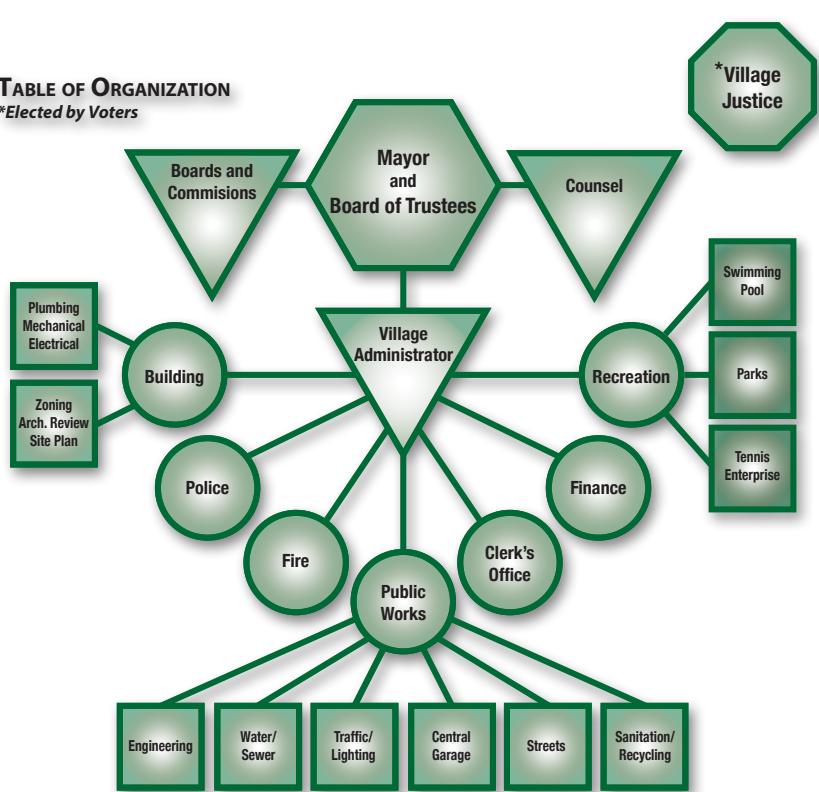
## Secretary to the Board of Trustees

The Secretary to the Board of Trustees heads the Human Resources Department and is responsible for employee interactions and issues; benefit administration and management ; risk management; and union collective bargaining agreement compliance.

## Village Counsel

The Village is represented by many law firms as counsel to the Mayor, Board of Trustees, Village Administrator and their advisory Boards and Commissions. These firms

**TABLE OF ORGANIZATION**  
*\*Elected by Voters*



# Justice Court

---



**ALLEN S. MATHERS**  
*Village Justice*  
*Elected by the Residents to a 4 year term*



**PETER MENOUDAKOS**  
*Associate Justice*  
*Appointed by the Mayor to a 1 year term*



**MERRIL S. BISCOME**  
*Associate Justice*  
*Appointed by the Mayor to a 1 year term*

Garden City has one of the busiest village courts in the State. The Court has jurisdiction over the enforcement of our Village Code, including parking tickets and zoning code violations, as well as New York State Vehicle and Traffic Violations and Misdemeanors, Alcoholic Beverage Control Law Matters and Federal Motor Carrier Act Violations.

The Court may impose fines, sentence convicted defendants to imprisonment or enter into agreements with defendants to perform community service in lieu of traditional sentencing, where warranted.

The Village Justice and Associate Justices receive no compensation for their service.

# Boards, Commissions and Committees

Residents are appointed by the Mayor and Board of Trustees to serve on various Boards and Commissions and do so without compensation. Those listed below held the noted position during this past fiscal year.

## 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. All plans for new buildings, additions, alterations and signs are required to be submitted, with the exception of additions or alterations to one-family homes. Seven members of the Board are appointed for three-year terms. Amended July 19, 2012 in order to allow alternate members.

Celia M. Petersen (2010), *Chairperson*  
JeanMarie Madelmeyer (2004)  
Sean O'Brien (2019)

Paul Capece (2021)  
Lynn Krug (2021)  
Michael Sbeglia (2021)

James L. Bauer (2022)  
William Alisse (2014), *Alternate Member*

## Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs

This Board consists of eight members; one representative from each section of the Village and four at-large members. The Commissioners oversee development of the Village's Recreation Program. Amended November 21, 2013 to allow for two additional members.

Paul Blake (2019), *Chairman*  
Michael Ryder (1997)  
Kristina Russo (2013)  
Christian Siragusa (2017)

William P. Garry (2019)  
Grace Li (2021)  
John Cantwell (2023)

Jonathan Debrich (2024)  
John Sardelis (2024)  
Ray C. Meyer III (2024)

## Board of Library Trustees

Five qualified residents of the Village are appointed to five-year terms on the Board of Library Trustees and are responsible for Library operations.

J. Randolph Colahan (2002), *Chairman*  
Lola Nouryan (2013)

Mary Maguire (2022)  
Colleen Foley (2023)

Linda Ryan (2024)

## Board of Police Commissioners

Members of this Board supervise, control and direct the operations of the Police Department. Each year, members of the Board are appointed by the Mayor and ratified by the Board of Trustees. The Chairman is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Police Department, its own Police Officers and the civilian staff.

Kenneth O. Jackson (2005), *Chairman*

Ralph V. Suozzi (2015)

Bruce A. Torino (2024)

## Environmental Advisory Board

This eight-member Board is appointed for four-year terms. The Chairperson is a Member of the Board of Trustees. This Board is responsible to the Board of Trustees and reports on environmental matters affecting the Village. Additionally, the Superintendent of Public Works acts as Recording Secretary and Garden City High School is represented by up to three students.

Michele B. Harrington, *Co-Chairperson*  
Jessica Tai, *Co-Chairperson*  
Elizabeth M. Bailey (2010)  
Laurence J. Quinn (2013)

Evelyn Fasano (2016)  
John F. Reilly (2019)  
Kelly Smith (2021)

Alison Parks (2023)  
Kurt Ehrig (2023)  
Amanda Shore (2024)

## Planning Commission

This 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 review 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.

Keith Galanti (2014)  
Craig G. Biscone (2014)  
Patrick J. Ward (2018)

Allyson Murray (2018)  
Lauren Fonesca (2019)  
Jack Hartog (2023)

Paul Rothenbiller (2023)  
Shepard Poole (2023), *Alternate Member*

# Boards, Commissions and Committees

## Traffic Commission

The Traffic Commission is appointed annually by the Mayor and ratified by the Board of Trustees. The Commission is composed of four Trustees who vote, as well as the Superintendent of Public Works and the Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners, in supporting roles. This Commission is responsible for traffic control operations and devices. Requests for signs by residents related to quality of life issues and review of parking regulations are discussed at monthly meetings and determinations are made as required.

Edward T. Finneran (2023), *Chairman*  
Kenneth O. Jackson (1985)

Judy Courtney (2024)  
Vinny Muldoon (2024)

Michele B. Harrington (2024)  
John Borroni (2015)

## Zoning Board of Appeals

The Board of Appeals interprets the Zoning Code and makes decisions on applications for variances and special permits. The Board consists of five members and one alternate member who serve for five-year terms.

Michael T. Schroder (1992), *Chairman*  
Brian Paradine (2004)

James Van Schoick (2019)  
Christine Rio (2022)

Richard Williams (2023)  
Alex Bachowski (2022), *Alternate Member*

## Civic Beautification Committee

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.

Althea Robinson (1988), *Co-Chairperson*  
Monica Kiely (2024), *Co-Chairperson*  
Chris Broder (2024), *Co-Chairperson*

Kathleen Auro (2005)  
Patricia Siler (2016)  
Maureen Lyons (2019)

Betsy Andromidas (2024)  
William Kuhl (2024)  
Kate Schmidt (2024)

## 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. The Mayor appoints this Board.

Richard F. Carrao (2022), *Chairman*

Rod Coyne (2023)

Kimberly Johnson Glenn (2023)

## Water Authority of Western Nassau County

The Water Authority is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of nine members, two appointed by the Town of Hempstead, one appointed by the Town of North Hempstead and one member each appointed by the village boards of the Villages of Bellmore, Floral Park, Garden City, New Hyde Park, South Floral Park and Stewart Manor. Each member's term is two years. The principal responsibilities of the board are to oversee the operational and financial needs of the Authority including but not limited to the approval of management recommendations as to capital and operational expenditures, acquisitions, monthly invoices, Capital Plans and budgets, bond issuance and water rates, outside vendors and overseeing all personal matters including employee benefits and matters of compensation. These and others matters are the subject of each meeting and corresponding resolutions requiring approval are voted on by the Board.

Owen Barbour (2023)

## Historians

The Historians are appointed by the Mayor and are responsible for collecting and preserving material relating to the Village's history. In addition to historic preservation, the Village Historians also provide information to interested residents and those doing research.

William A. Bellmer (2015)  
Patricia Siler (2024)

# Building Department



**GIUSEPPE GIOVANNELLO**  
Superintendent of Building

The Building Department is responsible for monitoring all construction that takes place on private property within the Village; the purpose of which is to ensure that the work is done in a safe, reliable and energy-efficient manner so as to protect and serve the occupants in both commercial buildings and private homes.

This is accomplished by adhering to various codes and standards including, but not limited to, the Village Zoning Code, the New York State Building, Fire, Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical and Energy codes, as well as other regulations and reference standards. To achieve that objective, the Department reviews plans, conducts inspections, and guides applicants through pre-approval procedures that may be required. These include the Architectural Design



*1200 Franklin Avenue (formerly Lord & Taylor)*

Review Board, the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Department also prepares the agendas, publishes notices, attends meetings, and serves in an advisory capacity for these agencies.

This year, extensive residential additions/alterations and several new dwellings are ongoing. The continuation of commercial properties, including completion of 1200 Franklin Avenue, 1111 Franklin Avenue and near completion of the two four-story apartment buildings at 555 Stewart Avenue as well as several new restaurants.

The Department collected permit fees totaling \$2,591,339.13. In addition, a total of \$118,425 was collected in filing fees for review board applications. The review boards consist of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, Architectural Review Board and Zoning Change Review Committee.



*An interior view of an apartment at 555 Stewart Avenue.*

# Building Department

Department personnel consist of a Superintendent, three inspectors, a code enforcement inspector, two Administrative Assistants and two Consultants. The technical staff is required to attain 24 hours/credits of continuing education training annually in order to maintain their required New York State Code Enforcement certification. We strive to make interaction with our department as pleasant and professional as possible. To that end, we are available to assist people through the process and offer advice when needed.



*Above and Below: New restaurants open on 7th Street.*



*555 Stewart Avenue is nearing completion.*

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

Building Permits .....	598
Plumbing Permits .....	250
Electrical Permits .....	336
Mechanical Permits .....	326
Approx. No. of Inspections .....	1,965
Certificates of Occupancy .....	20
Certificates of Compliance .....	1,265
Letters in Lieu .....	43
Architectural Design Review Board .....	112
Planning Commission .....	3
Zoning Board of Appeals .....	92
Zoning Change Review Committee .....	0

# Recreation and Parks Department

The 2023-2024 fiscal year was one filled with new projects, the re-opening of a favorite facility, and increased programs throughout the year.

One of the most visible projects was the beginning of the renovations to the St. Paul's playing fields. Beginning in August, approximately one third of the fields were closed so that extensive work could be done to improve the turf. The work began with thatching of the area, followed by deep tining aeration, a process which goes 8-9 inches into the soil, making it easier for water and nutrients to penetrate down to the root system. Heavy over-seeding was done several times, truckloads of topsoil were added to help level out the fields, and the entire St.



*Parks Staff participating in a pickup basketball game at Grove Park*

Paul's field system received a heavy dose of lime to sweeten the soil. Work slowed during the winter, but picked up again in the spring, with additional over-seeding. A new all-natural fertilizer comprised of kelp and mealworms was added in to our existing Organic program. An early spring application of pre-emergent crabgrass control further improved the quality of the grass. The area being worked on was scheduled to re-open in the fall of 2024.

Pickleball gained more players, and our evening basketball and volleyball programs were well attended.

At Cluett Hall, seasonal programs, such as the annual Christmas and New Year's shows, were again well received by residents. The Recreation Dance Ensemble, which is based at Cluett, produced and performed another smash recital, filling the Adelphi University auditorium for several shows.

The Cottages continued to be one of the more popular meeting spots for local groups, and were also utilized for popular Recreation programs, such as our Chess Wizards, Mad Science, and UpCycle programs.

The Garden City Pool enjoyed another successful season, which featured some new special events and shows, along with long time favorites, such as our Tuesday night movies, the Party Under The Stars, and our July 4th Festival, which again featured the popular cardboard boat regatta.

Adjacent to the Pool, Community Park remained quite busy, and towards the beginning of fall, saw the return of a favorite activity, our Miniature Golf course. Featuring a "retro" old style concept, iconic obstacles such as the spinning windmill, school house, and rotating bowling pins returned. Summer brought with it plenty of activities for the whole family, including our popular Gazebo concerts, featuring acts such as Risky



**PAUL BLAKE**  
*Chairman,  
Board of Commissioners of  
Cultural and Recreational  
Affairs*



*Residents gather at the Village Green to enjoy a music filled evening*

# Recreation and Parks Department

Business, The Manhattan Skyline, and a tribute to the Beatles starring Beyond Fab.

Our neighborhood parks introduced some new programs as well, including evening performances by jugglers, magicians and musicians. Arts and Crafts, sports, table games, and other special events contributed to a fun-filled summer for all. The five neighborhood parks continued to see improvements, including new safety surfacing at Nassau Haven, and a renovated tennis court at Tullamore.



Arborist, Joseph Umana

Our Parks Division was busy again, taking care not only of our "official" parks, but caring for many acres of green space, hedges, shrubs and of course, trees. After a long search, the Village hired Arborist Joseph Umana to give direction to our tree program. Under his direction, our tree crew took over the annual tree planting program from our outside contractor, resulting in better tree specimens, lower prices, and much better planting. Pruning and removals of dead and diseased trees were done by this crew, and for trees too large for our equipment, an outside contractor was hired, who worked under the direction of our Parks Supervisors.

In early spring, the Village again erupted in a colorful display of over 50,000 bulbs planted in over 45 beds throughout the Village. Our popular hanging baskets, filled with our "Bubblegum" petunias brightened up our shopping districts until early fall.

All in all, this was another year rebounding from the pandemic era, and getting our programs, facilities, and staff back to reach even greater heights in the coming years.



Goggles enjoying the first round on the brand-new mini golf course!



Magic of Amore bringing some magic to Grove Park



Children enjoyed bubble mania at Hemlock Park!

# Police Department



**KENNETH O. JACKSON**  
Police Commissioner

The Garden City Police Department is proud to be a modern, innovative, proactive agency attentive to the community's needs. We maintain a policy of omnipresence and preventative patrols, which has resulted in Garden City being recognized as one of the safest communities in New York State and the United States.

Enforcing vehicle and traffic laws has provided a safer environment for motorists and pedestrians. Therefore, the Department continues its constant and consistent traffic enforcement policy, which

resulted in 11,902 traffic citations in 2023, including 2,086 tickets for unsafe speed. Another component of a strict traffic enforcement program is the removal of unsafe motorists from the roadways for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In 2023, 30 motorists were arrested for DWI-related offenses. The Department's comprehensive Traffic Enforcement has been instrumental in reducing accidents by 27% from pre-pandemic levels. An essential component of the Department's traffic program is our truck enforcement

component, which resulted in the issuance of 968 commercial vehicle violations, 71 overweight violations, 24 unsecured load violations, 52 hazmat violations, and 92 vehicles taken out of service.



Officer Patrolling 7th St.

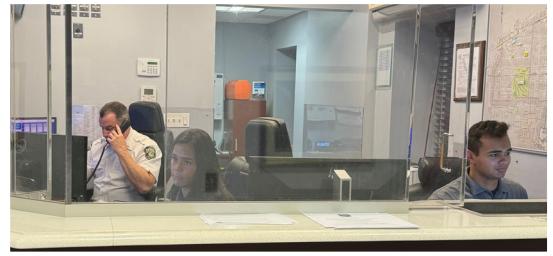
Our diligent Parking Enforcement Program contributes to the image of omnipresence and provides a safer environment for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians, particularly the young, elderly, and disabled. As such, Police Officers and uniformed civilian Parking Enforcement Aides, using conspicuously marked vehicles, patrol the streets and parking fields within the Village to enforce parking violations; 23,026 parking tickets were issued in 2023.

In terms of general police service, the Department documented more than 20,800 calls for service and assignments in 2023. These included 1,532 medical assistance calls, 958 vehicle crashes, and 220 arrests.

To improve the ability to provide exemplary service, the Department continues incorporating technical advances, training, and equipment. To offset the costs of these necessary items, the Department continually seeks grant opportunities, and in 2023/2024, those efforts were rewarded with more than \$237,000 in federal, state, and local grants. These grants, along with asset forfeiture funds, were used to obtain equipment, including Thermal Imaging Cameras, computer investigative software, three (3) Police Vehicles, medical equipment, and Safety Ballistic vests. Grants also support various Department initiatives, including Speeding, Aggressive Driving, Pedestrian Safety, Occupant Safety, and D.W.I. enforcement.

N.Y.U. Langone Ambulance is the Garden City Police Department's primary ambulance service, and it continues to provide quality medical assistance and emergency response to the Village's residents and visitors.

Training is always a vital component in providing a safer environment for all members of the community, and in 2023,



GCPD Operations and Dispatch Center



Parking Enforcement

# Police Department

officers attended more than 65 various training programs ranging from Basic Recruit Training to Specialized Training Topics.

Today's law enforcement environment, as well as national security concerns, requires a Police Department to be prepared to respond to numerous types of incidents that may threaten the health and safety of the community. To obtain this goal, the Department maintains close working relationships and intelligence sharing with the Department of Homeland Security and federal, state, county, and local police agencies.

The Department also appreciates the support, cooperation, and encouragement of the Mayor, Board of Trustees, Village Administrator, and various Village Departments. This cooperation assists the Police Department in providing a high level of service that the Garden City community expects and deserves.



*Youth Detective Teaching Safety Class*



*Police Vehicle on Patrol*

The Police Department, Adelphi University, the Garden City School District, and the private schools within the Village worked together to develop and implement safety plans for all students, faculty, staff, and neighbors. This includes lockdown/lockout drills, school patrols, camera accessibility, School accessibility, RAVE Notification Systems, meetings with staff, special events, security reviews, and the SHIELD (Supporting Healthy Informed Education Life Decisions) program.

## Police Programs

The Garden City Police Department maintains programs promoting residents' safety, including Drug Take Back, National Night Out, and online applications such as Vacation Watch, Citizen Reporting, Alarm Registration, Bike Management, Pet Management, Private Camera Registration, Lifesaver Program, and the Safety / Wellness Registration Program.

## Special Police

The Garden City Special Police, under the Police Commissioner's direction, is comprised of volunteers from the community who provide invaluable assistance to the Garden City Police Department during community events, parades, concerts, street fairs, traffic details, election details, and emergencies such as severe weather events.

## Crossing Guards

The Garden City Police Department employs eleven (11) part-time Crossing Guard positions. Crossing Guards help create gaps in traffic on neighborhood roads, remind drivers of the presence of people walking, help instill safe walking skills in students and their families, and indicate when people driving should yield.



*Crossing Guard on Duty*

# Flags Honor Veterans on 7th Street

Garden City High School junior Kiera O'Leary's vision of honoring local veterans in their hometown became a reality in May.

In April, O'Leary requested the Village's permission to hang veterans flags along 7th Street from Memorial Day through Veterans Day. The double-sided brackets were installed on five light poles on the south side of 7th Street this week, stretching from Hilton Avenue to Cathedral Avenue, near the Garden City Public Library. CJ Flag & Son, Inc. did the installation. The flags include a photo of local veterans and their dates of service.

"I am so happy to see this idea finally come to life. Honoring veterans holds a special place in my heart," Kiera said.

O'Leary's Girl Scout Gold Award project was met with enthusiasm. "This is a wonderful project you are doing, thank you," Mayor Mary Carter Flanagan said. Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi added his gratitude, noting the City of Glen Cove has been hanging such flags for the past three years, including a flag for his father, a U.S. Army veteran. Likewise, Deputy Mayor Bruce Chester praised the project too, also noting that his father has been honored on a flag in nearby Carle Place.

The Garden City resident, who walked with the American Legion in this year's Memorial Day parade, also started a Veterans Club at the school where local veterans are invited to basketball games to be recognized during halftime with a bouquet of flowers, thanking them for their service.

The 10 flags honor:

- Earl Alexander Powell, Jr., U.S. Army, WWII (1941-1945)
- Walter N. Schlosser, U.S. Army, WWII (1942-1945)
- Donald J. McDonough, Sr., U.S. Army, WWII (1942-1950)
- Joseph A. Mannix, U.S. Army, Asiatic Pacific Conflict (1943-1946)
- Ralph A. Torino, U.S. Army, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War (1945-1981)
- Salvator A. Intagliata, U.S. Army, Korean War (1950-1953)
- Frank LoPiccolo, U.S. Air Force, Vietnam War (1965-1969)
- Tom Deierlein, U.S. Army, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Purple Heart (1985-2007)
- Kevin J. Reilly, U.S. Army, Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan 2008, Purple Heart (1986-2009)
- Brian F. Knapp, U.S. Army, Kuwaiti Border Patrol (1994-1999)



# Fire Department

The Garden City Fire Department is a unique, all volunteer Department within our Village government. Its rich heritage is rooted with the independent volunteer fire companies that began to form and serve the Village in 1899 after a devastating fire at the Garden City Hotel. Then, in 1920, in order to be more organized and bring these independent companies together, 31 Village residents became "charter" members of the Garden City Fire Department, Inc., formally organizing the Fire Department. Soon after, the Department was integrated into Village government. Since 1920, more than 500 resident men and women have proudly served in the ranks of the Fire Service in Garden City. In 2020, the Department celebrated its 100th year of service to the Village. Under the direction of Fire Chief Matthew Pearn and three Assistant Chiefs, the



JAMES TAUNTON  
*Chief of Department*

Department utilizes a three tier approach to providing its vital services: quality training, cutting edge equipment, quick response and a comprehensive fire inspection and prevention program.



*Ex-Chief Leonard Rivera receiving a citation from Congressman Anthony D'Esposito*

throughout the year Firefighters attend various courses and live fire burn training at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy.



*Four sets of twins who are within the ranks of the GCFD*

that assists in preparation for numerous emergencies including car fires, forcible entry, ventilation and high rise hose line operations.

The Department conducts a continuous comprehensive fire inspection and prevention program for the Village. Program enhancements include computer database pre-plans of area occupancies,

In support of response, the Department has a fleet of apparatus that include three certified pumper trucks, one certified ladder truck, a heavy rescue truck and quint ladder truck that serves dual purposes as both an aerial ladder and a pumper combined. The Department also incorporates state-of-the-art technology including thermal imaging cameras, hazardous gas monitoring equipment, mobile computers and hydraulic rescue equipment. The Department utilizes full size training props



*Volunteer Firefighters and Trustees on Seventh Street providing education and recruitment*

# Fire Department

rigorous fire inspections of schools, businesses and multifamily dwellings and a devotion to public fire safety education through the Department's Fire Prevention Education Program. Each year, the Department educates thousands of students and residents through in-house safety classes, its annual Fire Prevention Week Program and fire safety lectures throughout the community including Adelphi University, area apartment buildings and local businesses.



Volunteer Firefighter Bob provides fire prevention to preschoolers



Ex-Captain Thomas Rivera, recipient of the Bronze Medal for his life-saving actions, performed CPR on a civilian who went into cardiac arrest



Volunteer Firefighters extinguish a car fire



Turnout gear ready for members to wear at a moment's notice

The Department is always looking for new members and has a year-round open enrollment. Some regard being a volunteer firefighter as being one of the highest forms of community service. It is a great opportunity for residents to give back to their fellow neighbors in their time of need. Some of the benefits that come with being a volunteer firefighter include real estate property tax reductions, great camaraderie, lasting friendships and more. If a resident is interested in joining the Department, they may visit [www.gcfdnny.com](http://www.gcfdnny.com) or email: [membership@gcfdnny.com](mailto:membership@gcfdnny.com).



Volunteer Firefighters after handling a recent fire



The Garden City Fire Department at 2024 Annual Fire Prevention Day

# Department of Public Works



**JOHN BORRONI**  
*Superintendent of Public Works*

## INTRODUCTION

The Public Works Department (DPW) is responsible for the maintenance and management of the entire infrastructure system of Garden City. The Superintendent of Public Works heads six divisions that provide critical services to keep the infrastructure system operational on a daily basis. The six divisions are the Central Garage, Engineering, Sanitation and Recycling, Street Division, Traffic and Street Lighting, and Water and Sewer. Additionally, DPW also assumes the responsibility for the maintenance of all Village facilities.

## CENTRAL GARAGE

The Central Garage is responsible for the maintenance of over 175 Village owned vehicles and plays a vital role in the delivery of essential municipal services to the residents. Maintenance of the Villages fleet ranges from compact cars to heavy machinery such as pay loaders, dump trucks, backhoes, vacuum trucks, and garbage / recycling trucks. In addition to maintaining the entire Village fleet, the Central Garage maintains all of our small equipment such as lawn mowers, chain saws, leaf blowers, etc.

The Central Garage has an extensive preventative maintenance program for all equipment and vehicles, which is essential to operating a dependable, trouble-free fleet. All equipment and vehicles are serviced according to the manufacturer recommended schedules on a yearly basis. Occasionally equipment and vehicles do breakdown and the Central Garage will be staffed during snowstorms and serve weather events to keep the entire fleet operational to serve the residents.

The Central Garage provides services to all Village Departments, including the Garden City Police Department. The Central Garage is responsible for the maintenance & repair of the entire Police Department Fleet. This includes the installation of lights, sirens, radios, and all other sophisticated equipment that assists the PD with keeping our community safe.

The Mechanics at the Central Garage are highly skilled in the trades, including welding and fabrication that allows them to support and assist various departments throughout the Village for special projects that normally would have to be contracted out.

## ENGINEERING DIVISION

The Engineering Division is responsible for the design and oversight of Capital construction projects within the Village and provides Engineering support for all other departments in the Village as required. The Engineering Division is staffed with professional engineers that perform survey & design work in order to create plans and specifications for the purpose of bidding and construction. The Division also provides oversight of the projects and ensures the vendors compliance with contract documents.

The Engineering Division is fully responsible for the management and oversight of two of the largest reoccurring projects within the Village; the curb, sidewalk and road improvements contract and the water main improvements contract.

Additionally, the Engineering Division oversees all street lighting and traffic sign installation and maintenance.

All permits for construction within the Village right-of-way are reviewed and approved by the Engineering Division. This includes all utility permits (gas, water, electric, sanitary), sidewalks, aprons, and other various road opening permits for construction projects. The Division oversees the permit work and ensures that the work is being performed to Village standards and that the Village code is being followed.

# Department of Public Works

## SANITATION AND RECYCLING

The Sanitation and Recycling Division is very familiar to most residents by providing a personal level of service unlike any other Village. Refuse is collected directly from the yards of our residential areas on a weekly basis, which allows for a personable relationship to be developed between the division and the community it serves.

The Department's normal duties include both household and commercial garbage/recycling collections. The Department is also responsible for the refuse collection from 127 strategically placed garbage/recycling cans throughout the Village.

Over the course of the past year, the Sanitation Division participated in many Village activities that reach above and beyond the typical daily job functions of the Division. The Sanitation Division has participated in Village-sponsored events such as the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot, Belmont Street Fair, 7th Street Promenades and the Andy Fund which is a not-for-profit fundraiser. In order to ensure the event area is clean and refuse free, the Division works diligently to keep garbage / recycling cans empty.

Full-time employees of the Division are required to maintain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) which allows them to assist the Street Department with leaf collection, snow removal, and other various required tasks in addition to collecting refuse 364 days a year.

The following are the annual totals for the collections over the past year:

### Sanitation

Garbage	10,568.82 tons
Rubbish	2,345.02 tons
Bulk	608.64 tons
Yard	3,253.46 tons
Total collected:	16,775.95 tons of Garbage collected (33,581,881 lbs.)

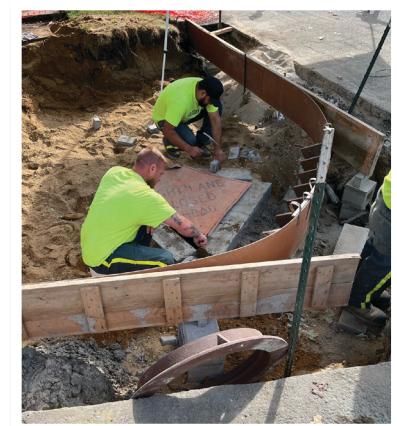
### Recycling

Commingled	1,246.79 tons
Paper	316.99 tons
Metal	56.79 tons
E-waste	22.43 tons
Total collected:	1,643.00 tons of recyclables collected (3,280,000 lbs.)

The Sanitation division also had 274 rubbish dumpsters removed from the yard and 40 dumpsters of yard waste.



Vincent Tyers, left, and Matthew Meyer collecting back door kitchen garbage on their route.



Frank Brusack and Yigael Moises Jimenez working to rebuild a Village catch basin/drywell.

## STREET DIVISION

The Street Division is responsible for the maintenance of the Village's 91 mile street network (260 Lane-Miles) which includes parking lots. Maintenance of the street network includes street sweeping, road repairs, manhole repairs, drainage system repairs / upgrades, snow removal, leaf collection, and emergency response during severe weather events.

The Street Division performs maintenance of over 700 catch basins throughout the Village as required by cleaning, repairing, rebuilding and/or replacing the structures. Maintenance of these structures includes the construction and/or repair of the interconnecting storm drainage lines.

In addition to the maintenance of the street network, the Street Division assists various departments with special projects that would normally have to be contracted out. The skilled workers of the Division

# Department of Public Works

assist with concrete repairs, sidewalk / paver installation, painting of structures, fence repairs, and other various tasks as required. The Street Division will also assist the Garden City Police and Fire Departments with various tasks throughout the year.

Over the course of the past year, the Street Division participated in many Village activities that reach above and beyond their typical daily job functions. The Street Division has participated in many Village-sponsored events such as the soccer and lacrosse festivals at St. Paul's, Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot, Belmont Street Fair, Homecoming Parade/block party, 7th Street Promenades and the Andy Fund not-for-profit fundraiser.

During the fall, the Street Division joins forces with the Parks Division to remove over 17,300 cubic yards of leaves. The leaves are collected and are stored at the Village Yard. The collected leaves are turned into mulch which is available to all residents free of charge.

The Street Division has the responsibility of clearing municipal streets and parking lots of snow and ice. When snow begins to lay on the roads, salt crews are called out to begin treatment of the roadways. Plowing operations usually occur with the accumulation of 2 to 3 inches or more of snow. Our goal is to provide you with the highest possible level of service. Crews work tirelessly around the clock as needed in order to keep the roads open for traffic flow and emergency response vehicles.

## TRAFFIC AND STREET LIGHTING

The Traffic and Street Lighting Division, in conjunction with the Engineering Division, is responsible for the maintenance of more than 7,400 traffic signs and 2,300 streetlights within the Village. Each year Village personnel repaint all the crosswalks, stop lines, arrows and lane markings. The Division will utilize private contractors as needed and oversee their work to ensure that our street lighting system is fully functional. The Division is also responsible for the implementation of Traffic Commission items.



Thomas Prestigiacomo working on a Street Sweeper.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Capital Improvement Program is a well-structured plan integral to the upkeep of the Village's infrastructure and a means to enable the continuous improvement of services. The Village continues to make significant investments in the Capital Program with more than \$50 million invested in over 40 improvement projects in the Public Works and Water Departments. Significant projects included:

- Curb, Sidewalk and Road Improvements - \$4.5M
- Library HVAC Renovation - \$1.8M
- Street Lighting System Improvements \$1.3M
- Sanitary Lift Station Pump Replacement - \$750,000
- DPW Yard Sprinkler System - \$600,000
- Gun Range Refurbishment - \$300,000
- Library Entrance Doors - \$200,000
- Toll House Improvements - \$160,000
- Library Carpet Replacement - \$160,000
- Library Grounds Improvements - \$50,000
- Plattsdale Road Retaining Wall - \$50,000
- Senior Center Exercise Equipment - \$50,000



Chris Black, left, and Charles Argenzio Jr. collecting recycling on their route.

# Department of Public Works

## WATER DEPARTMENT

The Village of Garden City owns and operates its own public water and sewer systems. The water system includes 104 miles of water mains, over 1000 fire hydrants and 10 supply wells as its source water. The sewer system is a collection system using two lift stations that discharge into the Nassau County system for treatment.

The Village of Garden City provides treatment at all wells to improve the quality of the water pumped prior to distribution to the consumer. The pH of the pumped water is adjusted upward to reduce corrosive action between the water and water mains and in-house plumbing by the addition of caustic soda. Air stripping treatment units are utilized at several wells for the removal of volatile organic compounds. Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) and Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) systems are utilized at most wells for the removal of volatile organic compounds and emerging contaminants. An iron removal treatment system is utilized for Well Nos. 15 and 16. The Village also adds small amounts of calcium hypochlorite (chlorine) as a disinfecting agent and to prevent the growth of bacteria in the distribution system. In November 2022, the Village began adding orthophosphate to mitigate corrosion.



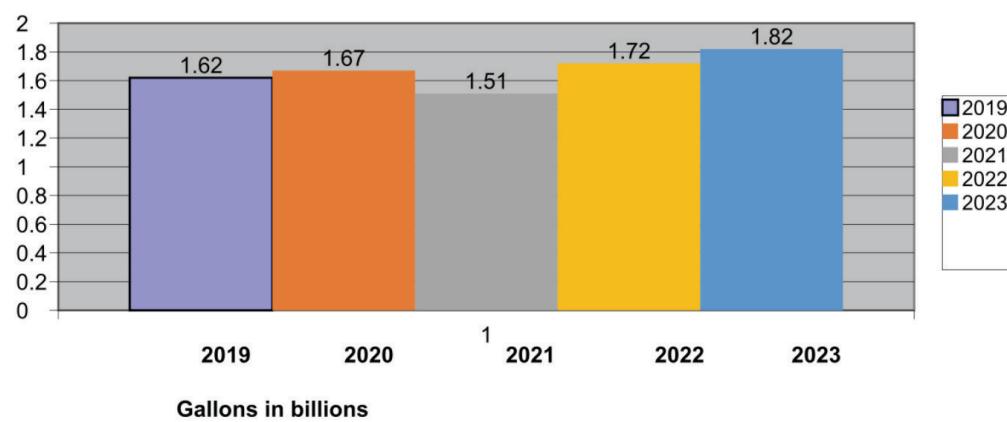
Village of Garden City Water Treatment Operators at a newly installed AOP system.



STANLEY CAREY  
Superintendent of Water & Sewer

The Board of Trustees continues to invest and upgrade its water and sewer infrastructure to meet the ever-changing drinking water regulations to ensure a clean and plentiful water supply for future generations. The final water treatment project to install AOP and GAC at Well 9 began earlier in the year and is expected to be completed by early 2025. During the past year the water main has been replaced on Clinton Road, from Old Country Road to Meadow Street.

Yearly Pumpage Trend- 5 Years



The annual water usage in the Village is trending upward. This is mainly due to the use of underground irrigation sprinklers. Residents are encouraged to install smart irrigation controllers to conserve water. These devices are inexpensive and connect to the internet to monitor the local weather. Basically, if it is scheduled to rain or if a significant amount of rain has recently occurred, it will not allow your sprinklers to come on for a few days.

For more information, please contact the water department at 516-465-4003.

# The Garden City Public Library



**MARIANNE MALAGON**  
*Library Director*

The Garden City Public Library Trustees, Administration and staff are committed to the Library's mission to connect people with information. The Library offers programs and services, encouraging a love of reading and satisfying the thirst for knowledge.

The Library staff carefully chooses materials from patron requests and recommendations, professional sources and peer-reviewed journals, to build curated collections of print, audio-visual media, digital information and streaming content. These collections provide reading, research and entertainment for Children, Teens and Adults. There are a vast array of books and magazines to read, music or audiobooks to listen to, movies and television programs to watch, online courses to study, and research databases, reference books and museum passes to bring worlds of knowledge home to Garden City residents.

The Library Director and the Library Board of Trustees are dedicated to providing the residents of Garden City with a Library that includes outstanding materials, programs and services. Members of the Library Board during the 2023-24 Fiscal Year were: J. Randolph Colahan, Chair; Germaine Greco, Vice Chair; Lola Nouryan; Mary Maguire; Colleen Foley; and Linda Ryan, who replaced Germaine Greco in January 2024 when her term ended. The Library Board of Trustees honored Ms. Greco's dedicated service to the Library during a ceremony Monday, December 18.

In October 2023, friends, family and Garden City classmates gathered on the Library lawn to re-dedicate a Magnolia tree in memory of resident Donna Varvaro, who passed away unexpectedly at age 14. Donna loved reading and writing poetry. Not surprisingly, the Garden City Public Library was one of her three favorite stops on the walk home after school. When Donna passed away, her classmates lobbied for a memorial plaque and Magnolia tree planting. The tree was planted on the front lawn and dedicated in 1974. When age and decay took its toll on the 50+ year old original tree, Donna's classmates started a fund for a new Magnolia tree.



*The Library Board of Trustees: (left to right)  
Mary Maguire, Colleen Foley, J. Randolph  
Colahan, Chair; Dr. Lola Nouryan, Vice Chair;  
and Linda Ryan*

This year the Library worked with the Village to prepare and undertake several new capital projects. A major roof-replacement project included restoration of the masonry around the building, removal of the previous roof and asbestos abatement. The Library's HVAC replacement project kicked off shortly thereafter. In Sept 2023, crews from the Recreation and Parks Department were busy cleaning up the landscaping around the building and grounds. Much of the vegetation was overgrown or in poor condition, as well as blocking the Library windows and infringing on sidewalks around the building. Topsoil was added to beds to level them out in anticipation of new plantings. This landscaping, along with plans for planters and benches, new exterior lighting, automatic doors and security updates, were all part of the Library's exterior improvements project. In May, pre-construction meetings kicked off for the new capital project to install new doors and security devices in the Library's entryway.



*Librarian Kristen Sweeney, Library Board Chairman (and Adelphi MBA alum) Randy Colahan, and Library Director Marianne Malagon at the inaugural Adelphi Writers & Readers Festival. The Library was an event sponsor.*

In April, readers and writers came together for two days of everything literary at a festival at Adelphi University. Garden City Public Library enlisted its support to the event as a sponsor, and helped provide representatives from Garden City and other Nassau public libraries to enhance the festival with readers' advisory and information about local libraries' services. Among those in attendance for the Garden City Public Library were Library Board Chairman Randy Colahan, Library Director Marianne Malagon, Assistant Library Director Ralph Guiteau and Librarian Kristen Sweeney.



*Several of the Directors and volunteers of the Friends of the Garden City Library attended their Annual Meeting on June 19, 2023: (L-R) Evelyn Fasano, Joan Trocchia, Susan Petry, Cathy Walsh, Maureen Roller, Pat Palermo, Rena Kuhl, Nancy Minett, Jann Tobias*

to catch a glimpse of history as a total solar eclipse became visible across a band covering parts of North America, including right here in Garden City. Over the four days prior, the Library gave out more than 1,400 solar eclipse glasses to Garden City Library cardholders. The drop-in viewing program was free for patrons.

# The Garden City Public Library

The Adult Reference Department offered research assistance and reading recommendations from experienced Librarians. Adults participated in the Summer Reading Club entitled "Adventure Begins at Your Library." Patrons were asked to read and review books and send a postcard when they traveled - these postcards were counted as review cards. Varied programs included art, history, entertainment, travel and museum lectures. The music group Rhonda Kay and the Backstage Trio entertained us with Valentine's Day love songs. Patrons had the opportunity to learn How to do Simple Electric Repairs, How to Organize their Homes, How to Use "Grow Bags" for Gardening Needs, Made Wire Earrings, Played Chess with a Rated Chess Teacher advising them, and Learned the Principles of Yoga through a series of sessions, we opened up space for Community members to play Mah-jongg and had a series of workshops for caregivers to those with Alzheimer's disease.

The Young Adult Department continued to encourage Tweens and Teens to learn, volunteer, and be creative. Library materials, programs and services aid middle and high school students with school assignments, college preparation, recreational reading, personal enrichment, and social activities. Programs included crafts, paint nights, gaming, knitting/crocheting, movie nights, jigsaw

puzzle tournaments, babysitting workshops and Dungeons and Dragons, and the return of the Chick Incubation Program. The Department also held the award-winning Locked-in-the-Library Halloween Party and other parties like the Summer Reading Kick-Off Ice Cream Social, End of Summer Party, and Teen Holiday Party. College and test prep programs included practice exams as well as college admissions workshops and a Final Exam Study Hall. The Teen Advisory Board continued to help suggest and develop programs, and provide hands-on event assistance. The Teen Advisory Board and other service activities help students earn volunteer hours for much needed community service credit. This year, these service activities included writing poetry for a National Poetry Month Display, creating a Summer Art Show in the lower level gallery and a Tiny Art Show outside the Tweens and Teens Room, making 3 Teen Recipe Books for Library patrons to browse, painting pumpkins and eggs for the Library's Pumpkin and Egg Scavenger Hunts respectively, the former of which won a community service programming award, The Great Give Back making cards for veterans, and making ornaments and bookmarks.



*Crews from the Recreation and Parks Department have worked at the Library to clean up the landscaping around the building and grounds. Crews removed shrubbery which was in failing health, cut back and pruned hedges, and removed nuisance growth.*



*The newly planted Magnolia tree in Donna Varvaro's honor, flanked by autumnal mums and a plaque in her name.*



*Nearly 90 residents gathered on the Garden City Library's front lawn April 8 to catch a glimpse of history as a total solar eclipse became visible across a band covering parts of North America.*

Children's Librarians created and led many fun interactive and educational programs for infants through children in fifth grade. A sampling of programs offered by Librarians included storytimes, arts and crafts, BINGO, and a monthly LEGO Club for Grades K-5. Family programs included Lightsaber Training with Saber Guild, Preschool Halloween Parade and Party, the Gingerbread House program and Family Game Night. Children's Librarians conducted class visits in the Library for children in Kindergarten and First Grade and outreach programs to promote the Summer Reading Club. The Young Adult Department also teamed up with the Children's Department to offer the service program, Reading Pals, a program in which teen volunteers read and make a craft with children. The two departments also teamed up to offer Tween programs for Grades 4-7, such as tie dye, BINGO, knitting and trivia. In addition, Children's and Young Adult Librarians mentored Girl Scouts as they worked on their Gold Award projects.

The Friends of the Garden City Public Library pledged \$25,000 for furniture in July 2023. The Friends provide ongoing annual financial support, which enhances services and resources, and provides program sponsorships for the Garden City Library. The Friends also generously provide free passes to museums, parks and gardens. Passes are now available to be reserved online and print on demand is available for some. Passes were available to Library cardholders, and included the 9/11 Museum and Memorial, Cradle of Aviation Museum, Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, Long Island Children's Museum, MOMA (the Museum of Modern Art), Nassau County Museum of Art, Nassau County Firefighters Museum, New York State Empire Pass, and Old Westbury Gardens and others.

The Garden City Public Library looks forward to continuing to serve all members of the community in the upcoming year, in the Library or at home.

# Finance Department



IRENE WOO, CPA CMFO  
Village Treasurer

Garden City's Chief Fiscal Officer is the Village Treasurer Irene Woo, CPA, CMFO who leads the Finance Department. This year, we welcomed the addition of Wa Cheng, CPA as our new Deputy Treasurer. Ms. Cheng has over 15 years of finance and accounting experience in various roles. We are thrilled that Ms. Cheng has joined our team! We also welcomed the addition of Mary DiBenedetto-Anteri, Sr. Typist Clerk, who has provided enormous assistance to the Finance Department this past year!

The Finance Department is responsible for the day-to-day financial operations of the Village, which includes some of the following functions:

- **Annual Budget Process** - With collaboration from the Board of Trustees and the Village's Executive Staff, we develop the annual operating budgets and 5-year Capital Plans and ensure that the Village is compliant with the limits set by the tax levy laws. The Finance Department provides detailed analysis on current and future budgetary impacts to the Village, including debt analysis, bonding vs. cash payment for projects, cash flow analysis for Enterprise Funds, and create high level executive presentations for the BOT, which are presented at the public work sessions. This past year, the Village held three public budget work sessions. The Board of Trustees adopted a General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$70.195m, and a 2024-25 Capital Plan of \$15.2m. This resulted in a Tax Levy increase of two percent year over year (after two consecutive years of no tax increase).
- **Village Financing** - The Department works closely with bond counsel to develop bond resolutions on capital projects and with fiscal advisor on analyzing bond terms that are favorable and in the best interest of the Village. We prepare the POS (preliminary offering statement) that is provided to the market, and the Treasurer meets with Moody's investor services to discuss Village finances and operations to help inform the committee in developing a rating for the Village's bond offering. This past year the Village successfully sold Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) at very favorable rates. The Village issued \$14.8m in bonds for various capital projects. The winning bid offered a 3.1 percent true interest cost with a \$1.4m premium. In addition, the Village issued \$43.6m in BANs for Water Well Treatment projects on six well sites. The winning bid offered a 3.0 percent net interest cost with a \$421k premium.
- **Tax Billings and Assessments** - The Department is responsible for the maintenance of all real property account information in the tax system. The annual tax bills are issued and posted in the tax system and General Ledger. We schedule and manage the annual tax lien sale and process small claims settlements. The Village Assessor values new construction or physical changes to properties based on building permits, assists the Board of Trustees with decisions regarding grievance requests and prepares the Tentative and Final Assessment Rolls. This past year the Village completed implementation of the new Tax Billings & Assessments System project. The legacy system has been replaced by Tyler Technologies iasWorld system. Public access module will be coming soon. We also upgraded the online bill pay system. We thank Angella Ciolino for all her hard work in making this project a success!
- **Purchasing Department** - ensures the efficient, economical, and legal (per General Municipal Law) Village-wide purchases of supplies, equipment and services by working closely with the various departments on their requests & requirements. They ensure the Village's procurement policy is followed and coordinate the entire bid process from advertising to the final BOT award for purchases requiring bids. This past year was again an extremely busy one in that the Department advertised and opened 40 bids – 19 for Capital Projects and 21 for operating items. In addition, Purchasing through their extensive research enabled the Village to "piggyback" on existing contracts and issued a few "mini-bids" through NYS contracts, which resulted in more efficient and timely purchases. The Department processed 3,752 Purchase Orders during the fiscal year and was able to successfully complete the high demand required this year. Thankfully we welcomed the addition of Viviana Trabulsi, Buyer to the Village's Finance Department, who assisted greatly in this effort!
- **Reporting & Analysis** - The Finance Department supports the Board of Trustees and Department Heads in providing them with ongoing financial analysis and reporting critical for decision making. In addition, the Department is responsible for all required NYS reporting: AFR (Annual Financial Report – formerly AUD) and discuss with the Office of the State Comptroller financial results for the Village; annual budget information that is used to monitor compliance with the Tax Cap Laws; and NYS Constitutional Tax Limit and Constitutional Debt Limit Reporting. Provide annual Continuing Disclosure information to the SEC. The department also works closely with any government agency in the reporting of information relating to grants or disaster relief. This past year our Senior Accountant Kevin Mitchell continued working with FEMA and the NYSDES to obtain reimbursements for COVID and Tropical Storm Isaias expenditures. To date the Village has received \$2.09m of these costs. The Village also received a total of \$2.3m in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding, which is being used to fund capital projects that benefit the community. As of May 31, 2024 the Village has committed the full amount of ARPA funds to capital projects. The Village also obtained reimbursement from NYS EFC for Water Well Treatment project grants. To date the Village has received \$18.25m of these costs. The Village was also approved for additional Water Well Treatment project grants totaling \$7.42m.

# Finance Department

- Auditing & Compliance** - The Finance Department works closely with the Village's independent auditors in the completion of the year-end audit and in the preparation of the annual financial statements and with any other required governmental audits, (e.g., Single Audit, DOT Audit, etc.) with our claims auditors with the weekly audit of claims and the ongoing audit of payroll; manage the yearly Deferred Compensation Plan audit; work with the NYS Comptroller's Office on Village audits; successfully manage and lead Audit and Compliance related projects, implement process improvements and document a system of internal controls for all critical functions to ensure compliance with all financial NYS, Federal, and Village laws, regulations, and policies.
- Accounts Receivable** - processes all cash, credit card, check payments to the Village from various departments and from other sources into the General Ledger system.
- Accounts Payable** - reviews and processes all Village invoices for payment; ensures compliance with all payment procedures; prepare IRS 1099 forms. Processed 5,327 checks during the fiscal year.
- Accounting** - Manage the monthly closing process, which includes preparing, reviewing and approving numerous journal entries. Prepare reconciliations of subsidiary ledger accounts to the General Ledger, prepare monthly bank reconciliations, develop and document procedures to ensure accurate books and records are maintained and appropriate accounting policies are being followed.
- Water Billing** - The Department is responsible for the billing and collection of water bills. Water bills are calculated and reviewed in the water billing system from actual water meter reads from the Water Department. Payments of water bills are received daily either through our Lockbox, Web Payment Center, or at Village Hall. This past year Sr. Accountant Kevin Mitchell completed the implementation of the upgrade to the Water Billing System, which enhanced the reporting and analysis function and improved the overall process.
- Payroll** - This year, the Village's payroll function was transferred back to the Finance Department from HR in accordance with best practices and recommendation from external auditors. We process the bi-weekly payroll for 259 Full-Time and approximately 376 Part-Time and Seasonal employees. We welcome Kathleen Blanco back to Finance!

## Financial Overview:

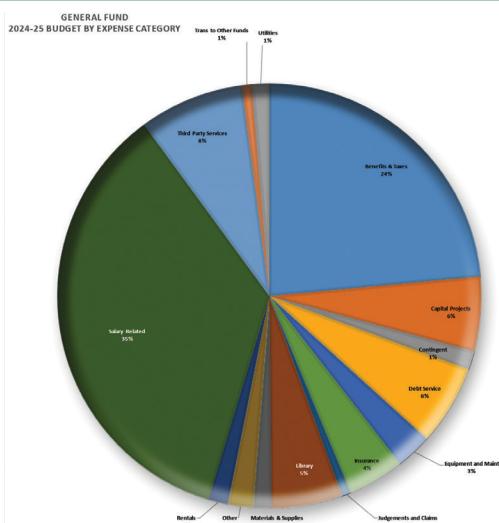
The State of New York requires municipalities to prepare and adopt balanced budgets where applied surplus, anticipated revenues and taxes raised cover all expenditures. The Adopted Village Budget is the culmination of a coordinated effort by the Board of Trustees and the Executive Staff to maintain the highest level of affordable municipal services while striving to keep property tax increases under the level imposed by the State Tax Cap.

### Manner In Which Budgets Were Balanced:

#### General Fund

	2023-2024	2024-2025	Increase (Decrease)
Current Surplus Appropriated	\$ 2,990,380	\$ 2,804,447	\$ (185,933)
Estimated Revenues	\$ 11,869,775	\$ 13,052,003	\$ 1,182,229
Tax Levy	\$ 53,273,473	\$ 54,338,978	\$ 1,065,505
Appropriated Reserve	\$ 1,810,174	\$ 750,000	\$ (1,060,174)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 69,943,802</b>	<b>\$ 70,945,429</b>	<b>\$ 1,001,627</b>

The 2024-25 Budget was adopted with a tax levy increase of 2.00%. The increase allowed per the Tax Levy Limit Law was 4.74% for the Village this year.



### Additional Self-Sustaining Budgets:

The Village has three Enterprise Funds that operate like a business in that the revenues generated from services provided are meant to cover all operating expenditures. Residents who benefit from the services provided by the Water Fund, Swimming Pool Fund, and the Tennis Fund pay for the operations via memberships, program services or other fees.

Enterprise Fund	2023-2024 Revenue Budget	2024-2025 Revenue Budget
Swimming Pool	\$2,061,775	\$1,824,196
Indoor Tennis	\$524,600	\$445,900
Water Department	\$8,616,333	\$8,751,219

# Budget Comparison

		<b>2023-2024 BUDGET</b>	<b>2024-2025 BUDGET</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	Board of Trustees	\$ 16,500	\$ 24,500
	Village Justice	564,774	608,898
	Administration	439,263	464,436
	Personnel	551,924	396,284
	Elections	13,300	14,200
	Publicity	72,000	93,000
	Historian	2,500	2,500
	Central Data Processing	533,307	430,809
	<b>SUB TOTAL - ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$ 2,193,568</b>	<b>\$ 2,034,627</b>
<b>FINANCE</b>	Finance	1,072,616	1,270,334
	Purchasing	211,696	204,755
	Assessment	50,500	50,300
	<b>SUB TOTAL - FINANCE</b>	<b>\$ 1,334,812</b>	<b>\$ 1,525,389</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	Police	11,438,659	11,442,889
	Fire	1,864,226	1,865,317
	Safety Inspection	1,153,598	1,112,051
	<b>SUB TOTAL - PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	<b>\$ 14,456,483</b>	<b>\$ 14,420,257</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>	Engineering	556,754	555,460
	Building	683,271	717,033
	Central Garage	1,022,230	1,106,419
	Streets	2,880,919	2,295,508
	Snow Removal	342,740	275,000
	Street Light & Traffic Control	765,922	982,600
	Sanitary Sewers	519,931	547,621
	Storm Sewers	186,129	637,558
	Refuse and Garbage	4,113,632	4,176,203
	Sanitation Recycling	592,837	503,564
	<b>SUB TOTAL - PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>\$ 11,664,365</b>	<b>\$ 11,796,965</b>
<b>RECREATION</b>	Parks	3,346,298	3,508,688
	Recreation	2,146,655	2,249,805
	<b>SUB TOTAL - RECREATION</b>	<b>\$ 5,492,953</b>	<b>\$ 5,758,492</b>
<b>LIBRARY</b>	Contribution to Library	<b>\$ 3,564,516</b>	<b>\$ 3,789,856</b>
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	NYS Employees Retirement System	1,500,000	1,815,600
	NYS Police & Fire Retirement System	2,740,000	3,000,000
	Social Security	1,924,999	1,800,000
	MTA Payroll Tax	86,000	85,000
	Health & Dental Insurance	8,841,000	9,793,000
	Capital Projects	4,155,023	3,958,900
	Unallocated Insurance	3,547,000	3,014,950
	Judgements and Claims	650,000	500,000
	Law	1,002,000	922,000
	Contingent Account	1,228,406	1,000,000
	Debt Service	3,855,678	4,294,207
	Miscellaneous	957,000	686,186
	<b>SUB TOTAL - GENERAL</b>	<b>\$ 30,487,106</b>	<b>\$ 30,869,843</b>
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 69,193,802</b>	<b>\$ 70,195,429</b>
<b>APPROPRIATION TO RESERVE</b>		<b>\$ 750,000</b>	<b>\$ 750,000</b>
	<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 69,943,802</b>	<b>\$ 70,945,429</b>

# Directory

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Mary Carter Flanagan** (2022)

*Mayor*

**Bruce J. Chester** (2021)

*Deputy Mayor*

*Fire Commissioner*

**Judy Courtney** (2024)

*Commissioner of Building and Planning*

**Edward T. Finneran** (2023)

*Commissioner of Public Works,*

*Traffic Commission, Chairperson*

**Michele Beach Harrington** (2023)

*Commissioner of Finance and Audit,*

*Environmental Advisory Board, Co-Chairperson*

**Vinny Muldoon** (2024)

*Recreation Liaison, Business District Liaison*

**Jessica Tai** (2024)

*Environmental Advisory Board, Co-Chairperson*

**Bruce A. Torino** (2022)

*Police Commissioner*

*Library Liaison*

## JUSTICE COURT

**Allen S. Mathers** (1988)

*Village Justice*

**Peter Menoudakos** (2023)

*Associate Village Justice*

**Merril S. Biscone** (2000)

*Associate Village Justice*

**Greg Cutrone**

*Clerk to the Justice Court*

## VILLAGE COUNSEL

**Gary Fishberg** (2023)

*Cullen and Dykman, LLP*

## SPECIAL POLICE

**David B. Carpentier**, *Captain* (1994)

**John Koch**, *Lieutenant* (2004)

**David Bliss**, *Ex-Captain* (1982)

**John Morelli**, *Special Police Officer* (2016)

## VILLAGE HISTORIAN

**William A. Bellmer** (2015)

**Patricia Siler** (2024)

## ADMINISTRATION

**Ralph V. Suozzi** (2014), *Village Administrator*

**Kenneth O. Jackson** (1985), *Police Commissioner*

**Kelly Galanek** (2023), *Village Clerk*

**Denise Ostapow** (2017), *Deputy Village Clerk*

**Marianne Malagon** (2018), *Library Director*

**Irene Woo** (2015), *Village Treasurer*

**Wa Cheng** (2024), *Deputy Village Treasurer*

**Giuseppe Giovanniello** (2018),  
*Superintendent of Building*

**John Borroni** (2015),  
*Superintendent of Public Works*

**Stanley Carey** (2023),  
*Superintendent of Water & Sewer Operations*

**Courtney Rosenblatt** (2016)  
*Secretary to the Board of Trustees*

**Paul Blake** (2019)  
*Chairman, Board of Commissioners of Cultural  
and Recreational Affairs*

**Adam Lipke** (2021), *Village Auditor*

## FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEFS:

**James R. Taunton**, *Chief* (2012)

**Jonathan F. Parrella**, *1st Assistant Chief* (2015)

**Daniel L. Roeper**, *2nd Assistant Chief* (2018)

**Devyn F. Moody**, *3rd Assistant Chief* (2010)

## LINE OFFICERS:

**Matthew C. Carroll**, *Captain Engine* (2017)

**Joseph A. Philippas**, *1st Lieutenant Engine* (2018)

**Christopher P. Moscatiello**, *2nd Lieutenant Engine* (2019)

**Christopher K. Maier**, *Captain Truck* (2018)

**Jonathan L. Juliano**, *1st Lieutenant Truck* (2019)

**Ryan T. Moody**, *2nd Lieutenant Truck* (2021)

**Michael J. Reale**, *Secretary* (2009)

**Anthony J. Della Ratta**, *Assistant Secretary* (2021)

**Robert F. Kalb**, *Treasurer* (1987)

**Donald B. Byrne**, *Assistant Treasurer* (2018)

**Lawrence E. Nedelka**, *First Battalion Delegate* (1974)

\*Note ( ) Date entered into Village Service



*Save and Print for future reference*

## Incorporated Village of Garden City ★ KEY PHONE NUMBERS ★

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

- POLICE      Emergency ..... 911      Non-Emergency ..... 465-4100
- FIRE          Emergency ..... 742-3300      Non-Emergency ..... 746-1301
- POISON CONTROL ..... 1-800-222-1222

### VILLAGE HALL

- Finance Department:
  - Main Office ..... 465-4000
  - Village-Related Tax Questions ..... 465-4156
  - Town and School Tax Questions* ..... 489-5000
  - Water Billing Questions ..... 465-4160
- Departments:
  - Administrator/Mayor / Clerk ..... 465-4051
  - Building ..... 465-4040
  - Justice Court ..... 465-4080
  - Public Works ..... 465-4003
  - Recreation and Parks (Monday-Friday) ..... 465-4075
  - Water and Sewer ..... 465-4020
- Library ..... 742-8405
- Municipal Service Yard ..... 465-4031
- Pool (Seasonal) ..... 483-1714

### OTHER PHONE NUMBERS OF INTEREST

- Garden City Chamber of Commerce ..... 746-7724
- Garden City School District ..... 478-1000
- Nassau County:
  - Department of Health ..... 227-9697
  - Government Offices ..... 571-3000
- Town of Hempstead ..... 489-5000