

March 12, 2025

The power of villages to adopt local laws comes from Article IX of the New York State Constitution commonly referred to as the “Home Rule” article of the Constitution. This power is critically important as Village government is the government closest to the people.

One of the most rewarding parts of serving on the Village Board of Trustees has been adopting local laws that protect the quality of life of our residents, and preserve the character and well being of our community. You may have noticed a number of updates to our local laws and new local laws being passed during recent years, and this reflects efforts by multiple boards working collaboratively on behalf of residents.

Last week, after a public hearing, we passed a much-needed revision to our outdoor dining code [https://www.gardencityny.net/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_03062025-461]. We also held a public hearing on a new pool code, which will be voted on at the next meeting on March 20, 2025. The new pool code that was publicly noticed and is viewable on our website {https://www.gardencityny.net/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_03062025-461} was drafted with input from our Zoning Board of Appeals (“ZBA”) and counsel. The code addresses the need for clear standards on pools in the Village, and considers the complaints we have heard from residents. Research on pool codes in other communities was part of the process, and while some communities we looked at, including Munsey Park and Scarsdale, are more restrictive, we worked together to find a code that best meets the needs of our Village and has support of the Board of Trustees.

While in person public comments have concluded, you may still email comments to kgalanek@gardencityny.net with the title “Public Comment on Proposed Pool Code.” Please submit by noon on Wednesday, March 19 so they can be provided to the entire Board with time to review prior to the meeting. At our March 20 BOT meeting we will be holding a public hearing and voting on long overdue amendments to our Tree Code, an initiative that came out of the Environmental Advisory Board’s ongoing efforts dating back to 2021 to protect and improve our diminishing tree canopy. That code is also viewable on the Village website [<https://ecode360.com/9148209?highlight=trees&searchId=22545041488756539#9148209>].

Over the last four years there have been other codes passed based on community input by Boards focusing on quality of life issues, public safety, and the preservation of our community’s character. Those codes addressed short-term rentals (Air BNBs), opting out of cannabis retail dispensaries and onsite consumption establishments, restrictions on vape shops and other adult uses, and a ban on summertime use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

If you haven’t done so already, downloading the Village app, MyGardenCity is a great way to be informed about what is going on in the Village!

PUBLIC HEARING - VILLAGE CODE REGARDING TREES

The Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. to amend section 188 of the Village Code with regard to trees.

LICENSE PLATE READERS

The Village Board has just approved a three-year extension of our agreement with Flock Safety, allowing the Police Department to lease 12 additional license plate readers strategically placed throughout the area. With these cameras, we’re not just capturing license plate information; we’re also able to compare what we gather with DMV records, criminal files, and ongoing investigations. In total, the Police Department now has 26 readers in action, 14 of which were funded through a generous grant. “Good old-fashioned detective work

combined with technology helped solve the case,” said Commissioner Kenneth Jackson, reflecting on how these tools played a crucial role in solving multiple burglaries that took place last December [<https://www.gardencityny.net/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=419>]. “These readers capture objective evidence that can make a real difference in our investigations.”

NARCAN TRAINING AT THE LIBRARY

Former U.S. Congressman Anthony D’Esposito will offer Narcan training at the Garden City Library on March 26 at 6:30 p.m. Training includes how to identify an overdose victim, administer the Narcan kit and contact emergency officials. Participants will obtain a Narcan certification and a Narcan kit.

2025 VILLAGE ELECTION: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The General Village Election for 2025 will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025. Polls will be open from 12 Noon to 9:00 p.m. in the evening and will be held at the St. Paul’s Field House. The names of all those who are running for Village office is as follows:

- Mayor – Two-Year Term: Edward T. Finneran
- Trustee – Two-Year Term: Michele Beach Harrington
- Trustee – Two-Year Term: Richard Catalano
- Trustee – Two-Year Term: Yvonne Varano
- Village Justice – Four-Year Term: Allen S. Mathers

La Elección General de Aldea para 2025 se llevará a cabo el martes 18 de marzo de 2025. Las urnas estarán abiertas de 12 del mediodía a 9:00 p. m. por la noche y se llevará a cabo en St. Paul's Field House. Los nombres de todos los que se postulan para el cargo de Village son los siguientes:

- Alcalde – Dos Años: Edward T. Finneran
- Fideicomisaria - Dos Años: Michele Beach Harrington
- Fideicomisario - Dos Años: Richard Catalano
- Fideicomisaria - Dos Años: Yvonne Varano
- Juez de Aldea - Cuatro Años: Allen S. Mathers

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

- **MONDAY, MARCH 17** 1:30 p.m. Monday Movie Matinée: *Once* at the Library
- **MONDAY, MARCH 17** 1:30 p.m. Little Listeners Storytime at the Library. Must register.
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 18** 7:00 p.m. Yoga With Kimberly at the Library. Must register.
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 18** 12:00 - 9:00 p.m. Village Election at the St. Paul’s Field House
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 18** 3:30 p.m. Little Matters of the HeArt at the Library. Must register.
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 18** 6:30 p.m. Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at Village Hall
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 18** 7:00 p.m. Teen Paint Night at the Library. Must register.
- **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19** 7:30 p.m. Budget Work Session #1 at Village Hall
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 20** 4:00 p.m. Teen Creative Hour at the Library. Must register.

- **THURSDAY, MARCH 20** 6:00 p.m. Traffic Commission Meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 20** 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 21** 10:00 a.m. Baby & Toddler Storytime for ages Birth - 2.5 the Library
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 21** 11:00 a.m. Budding Bookworms Storytime for ages 2.5-5 the Library