

April 9, 2025

With the distinctive and traditional sounds of bagpipe music in our hearts and ears on the second floor of Village Hall Monday evening, we turned to the swearing-in ceremony and the Organizational Agenda, a “tradition like no other.” With a little pomp and circumstance as well as the “nuts and bolts” duties behind us, the Board got right down to the business of the Village. It should be a terrific year ahead, full of chores we know and can anticipate, along with a surprise here and there which we will tackle thoughtfully and with the expertise of our senior staff and their respective teams.

Having run for office in the winters of 2023 and 2025, knocking on doors and meeting folks across the Village, I’m looking forward to sharing what I learned out on “the hustings” and working closely with my talented Trustee partners in the upcoming spring and summer as well as throughout the year.

I plan to be accessible and approachable at all times and aspire to represent all GC Trojans. There will be differences of opinion from time to time but we will engage in respectful dialog and listen “with both ears.” We are fortunate to have chosen to reside in our fair Village and *it'll* be my goal, with tons of help, seriousness of purpose and good cheer, to welcome newcomers warmly and move us forward positively.

### **BUDGET ADOPTION**

Following a budget hearing on Monday April 7, the Garden City Board of Trustees adopted a \$71.2 million General Fund Operating Budget and \$16.3 million in General Fund capital projects for 2025-26. Village Treasurer Irene Woo and her team worked closely with Department Heads and Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi to formulate the annual budget. Their work culminates with budget work sessions held in March and April and the annual budget hearing held each year during the annual Organizational Meeting. After making adjustments, the Board, which now includes two newcomers who were sworn in that same evening, unanimously adopted the spending plan. This spending plan results in a tax levy increase of 2.5 percent year over year. The increase allowed per the Tax Levy Limit Law is 4 percent for the Village this year. According to Treasurer Woo, in the last 10 years, the actual property tax levy increase has been less than the amount allowed per the Tax Levy Limit Law. In Fiscal Years 2023-24 and 2024-25 the Tax Levy increase was 0 percent.

### **MOODY'S ISSUES Aaa RATING**

In January, Moody’s issued the Aaa rating to the Village, citing in their credit opinion the Village’s strengths, including conservative fiscal management and strong reserves and liquidity. Moody’s expects the Village to maintain its ample reserves in fiscal 2025 supported by its strong financial management. The full credit opinion can be viewed on the Village’s website, under the Finance Department tab.

### **FIRE TRAINING FACILITY**

The Board has rejected all bids for the Fire Department Training Facility and intends to rebid the project. Public Works Superintendent John Borroni and his team of engineers are investigating a new location further west in the Village Yard where the Department currently stores snowplows. “It’s a decent site with decent space requirements. We will have to move forward with soil borings and further investigate the site’s feasibility but we believe it’s a potentially good location,” Mr. Borroni said. Chief James Taunton concurred, noting that the site gives the Department ample space to train.

### **PROPERTY RECORDS SEARCH MODULE**

The [Property Records Search Module](#) can be used to search for information on properties residing within the Village, such as ownership, taxes due and paid, assessments, lien information, etc. The portal provides historical information up to five years. Properties are searchable by Parcel ID, Owner Name or Address. For

any additional information, please contact the Finance Department.

#### **OUTDOOR DINING**

Working under a special permit from the Village, some food establishments on Seventh Street, New Hyde Park Road and Franklin Avenue have tables and chairs outside their shops and restaurants for your convenience and enjoyment. Now that the weather is beginning to get a bit nicer, I hope that you will stop by these establishments and enjoy a cup of coffee, breakfast, lunch and/or dinner. Also, let the merchants know that you appreciate their efforts and enjoy the many fine tastes of Garden City. According to Building Superintendent Giuseppe Giovanniello, recently adopted amendments to the Village code regarding outdoor dining have been “well received.”

#### **STAY CONNECTED - DOWNLOAD MYGARDENCITY APP**

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