

December 10, 2025

As we barrel faster and faster towards Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza and New Year's, it's important to remember why we celebrate. I am among countless folks who tear around like the "Tasmanian Devil" in prep for the big days ahead. But from time to time, even this young fella tries to remember to "take a breath and steady the ship," to soak in the holidays, what they represent, how important and blessed I am – like I'm sure you are as well - with family, friends and faith (whomever your God or Being might be). So here's to the very best of the upcoming holidays to you and yours...may you find peace, comfort and joy!

A couple of quick posts:

\*\* The Marine Corps property: our good pal Frank Tauches recently heard from the Marine Corps Installations Command and was informed that in January their team is scheduled to be on Stewart Avenue inspecting the property, including a cursory environmental assessment. The internal process was set back weeks by the recent U.S. government shutdown. We are in touch with Congresswoman Gillen's office here as well. As a reminder, there is a very lengthy Marine Corps/Navy process in determining the future of the property and any interest shown by third parties is premature and is being monitored.

\*\* Propel NY: we continue to be in regular contact with the senior team managing the project's cable "pathway" through the Village. There will be some disruption on Clinton Rd., Stewart Ave. and Franklin Ave. when construction likely begins in 3Q2026. We are working hard to minimize same.

\*\*EPA work on the Old Roosevelt Field plume: nothing new to report as we continue to monitor and are in contact with the appropriate EPA officials. When the EPA finalizes its plans, new well construction and piping are expected to be installed in the east, on Garden and Grove Streets. We will update you as developments warrant.

### **'TIS THE SEASON**

Hope to see a great crowd at all these terrific and wonderful events:

- Today, Friday, December 12th, the WPOA will hold its Tree Lighting on New Hyde Park Road. It will begin at 6:00 p.m.
- On Sunday, December 14th, the first candle of the HANUKKAH Festival of Lights Menorah will be lit at sundown on the Village Green, and...
- On Friday, December 19th, join us for Holiday Toast, Shop & Stroll on 7th Street between 4-9 p.m....there'll be lots to do for the young...and those a little less young!

### **WREATH PLACING CEREMONY**

On Saturday, December 13, communities across the nation will come together to "Remember, Honor and Teach" by placing wreaths on the graves and memorials of our fallen heroes. Please join William Bradford Turner Post 265 for its wreath placing ceremony as we honor those who served and gave all for our freedom at the Garden City War Memorial on 7th Street next to the Library. This powerful tradition ensures the sacrifices of our veterans are never forgotten. Every wreath, every name, every

story matters.

### **LEAF COLLECTION**

Still have leaves to dispose of? As of Friday, December 12, residents and landscapers were no longer permitted to place leaves in the roadway for collection. Leaves may be bagged and placed out for pickup on your regular rubbish day, or they can be brought to the Village Transfer Station (“Dump Area”).

Transfer Station Hours:

- Monday–Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (*Closed for lunch from 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*)
- Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Sunday: Closed

Crews are still in the process of collecting leaves and will make additional passes through the Village, weather permitting.

### **OPERATION SANTA**

The GC Volunteer Fire Department is excited to announce that Operation Santa will be spreading holiday cheer throughout the Village during the week of December 15th! Keep an eye out as Santa comes riding through your neighborhood on a firetruck, greeting families and spreading the magic of the season. Updates and detailed schedules can be found on the Garden City Fire Department’s social media pages!

### **LETTERS TO SANTA**

It’s time to send letters to Santa and the Recreation Department will speed up the process! A special “Santa’s Mailbox” has been set up next at the Gazebo on the Village Green. Children can drop their letters in the mailbox and Santa will send them a personalized reply. Santa’s mailbox will be available through December 19.

### **TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION ENDS DECEMBER 17**

To help the Marines bring some happiness to families who do not have the resources to provide a gift for their child this holiday season, the GC Police Department has a gift depository collection box for the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Toys for Tots Program at Police Headquarters. In the spirit of giving, please drop off any new, unused, and unwrapped toys into collection boxes located in the lobby of Police Department headquarters by **Wednesday, December 17, 2025**. Last year, our PD collected a ton of boxes filled with toys, which the Marines distributed to many deserving kids. Thanks in advance for participating.

### **CARDBOARD RECYCLING PERMIT FEES WAIVED**

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

### **THANK YOU, RANDY COLAHAN**

Garden City Library Board Trustee J. Randolph Colahan attended his final meeting this past Monday, following nearly a quarter of a century of dedicated service. First appointed to the Board in 2002, he

served as chairman for an unprecedented 18 years, between 2007-2025. He currently serves as Trustee until his term officially ends Dec 31. He has been present for more than 275 meetings, plus numerous executive sessions and Village Hall budget hearings. I had the privilege of presenting Randy with a citation on behalf of the Village this past Monday evening. We all know what it takes in terms of time, dedication, hard work and time away from home. The Village was very lucky to have had Randy serve at our Library for those good many years. Good luck sir.