

May 5, 2021

THE MAYOR'S UPDATE

cveneziale@gardencityny.net

WATER UPDATE

At the water tower off Old Country Road, sandblasting continues in the morning with priming the sandblasted areas in the afternoon. Crews are currently working on the exterior roof and sidewall bowl areas. H2M inspects blasted areas in the afternoon before paint is applied. Dimpled roof areas are also being repaired.

Well No 7: The contractor is ordering parts for punch list items at the Waterworks site.

Well Nos. 8 and 12: Conduit work for AOP enclosures continues at the Rockaway Avenue well site. GAC media delivery was postponed. Well No.12 well pump and motor has been installed. Site piping from GCGC property to AOP enclosures will commence. Electrical work at AOP enclosures will continue. GAC media delivery expected week of May 14.

Well 9: The Engineering Report was to be submitted this week. H2M will provide the Village with a proposal for design of an AOP treatment system at this site located on Wilson Street.

Well Nos. 10 and 11: At the Clinton Road water well site, all scaffolding has been removed from the interior of the building. The final panel for the Well No.10 building is being installed this week. Well No.10 sampling bottles have also been delivered to site. Following vibration testing, Well No.10 will be sampled and results submitted to the New York State Department of Health for approval to operate.

Well Nos. 13 and 14: At the Garden City Country Club well site, H2M is waiting for the Village and Country Club to approve the rendering of the new GAC building to move forward with permanent design. Water heater and eyewash installation is being completed at this site. Crews can potentially start and finish installing leak detection, limit switches on the GAC blowoff swing arm check valves, EFI drainage and electrical panel work by the H2O2 tank. Once this work is finished, a completed works video will be created for submission to the NYSDOH.

Wells 15 and 16: Crews began installing structural steel for the first floor. Block work is expected to begin in two weeks at this site, located at Hilton Park. GAC vessels are scheduled for delivery May 18.

VILLAGE BUDGET ADOPTION

The Garden City Board of Trustees adopted a \$65.056 million Operating Budget and \$9.3 million Five-Year Capital Plan during a special meeting on Thursday, April 29, 2021.

2021-22 expense appropriations total \$65.056 million, which will be funded via three sources - \$2 million in current year surplus, estimated revenues of \$9.7 million and a tax levy of \$53.3 million. The budget is again tax cap compliant, with a 1.95 percent Tax Levy increase, which is less than the increase allowed per the Tax Levy Limit Law, which is approximately 2.4 percent this year. In fact, "over the last six years, the Village

has made a concerted effort to raise taxes way below that allowed by the law. This year continues that trend," Village Treasurer Irene Woo said.

Three budget work sessions took place in March, two of which were held following the March 16 Village Election. A budget hearing was held on April 5 and continued on April 22, giving the newly elected Trustees time to further review the proposed budget and make minor changes, which were presented at a Special Meeting on Thursday, April 29, 2021.

The original capital budget plan included a total of \$12.6 million in capital projects. The Board, however, reduced the proposed Edgemere Firehouse project by \$4 million. Road paving and repairs, which totaled \$868,000 in the proposed budget, increased by \$831,000 to now total \$1.7 million. After those changes, the capital budget plan now totals \$9.3 million; funding from taxes remains the same at \$4,483,000 million while the amount to be bonded has been reduced from \$8.068 million to \$4.825 million.

A project not originally included in the tentative budget, but presented by the Police Commissioner during his department work session on March 24th is \$200,000 funding earmarked to purchase police body cameras in the 2022-23 fiscal year. Abatement of St. Paul's has been approved in this year's capital plan although a bond resolution has not yet been authorized. That project is anticipated to begin once building stabilization is complete. That project, along with a couple of projects that were deferred by the Board - Village Hall Repointing and Replacement of the Village Hall HVAC system, are anticipated to begin during the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Ms. Woo thanked Mayor Cosmo Veneziale and Village Trustees for their thoroughness in reviewing this budget. "From all the public budget work sessions to all the hours I have spent answering questions over the last few weeks with every single one of you, it's a large time commitment on your end in gaining an understanding of the budget and the process and I appreciate that," she said.

POOL OPENING UPDATE

The Nassau County Health Department has again revised its COVID-19 capacity limits for the upcoming Pool season. Recreation Commissioner Paul Blake announced at the April 22, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting that the Pool could open June 12 with no capacity limits, as per notification he received from Health Department officials. Since then, Mr. Blake has learned that effective April 26, 2021, last summer's 50 percent occupancy limits are still in effect and will be enforced.

"Although we had a document from the Health Department that made that announcement, in attempting to do our due diligence, the Monday following that meeting, we called the Health Department and asked them to confirm and clarify this decision [to open with no capacity limits]," Mr. Blake said. "We were shocked when we were told that as of that date (April 26), the capacity limits from last summer are still in effect, and will be enforced this summer."

Prudence dictates that the Recreation Department prepare to open on June 12 with 50 percent capacity limits in effect, using the dedicated swim sessions and registration procedure that was in effect last year, but will be ready to switch over to “full operation” should the Health Department lift those capacity rules. With the facility’s large deck, picnic and grass areas, as well as the snack bar, the Pool can accommodate its normal capacity of more than 1,300 patrons and successfully social distance at six feet without a mask and anything less than six feet with a mask.

Residents should be aware that COVID-19 capacity limits could be lifted by the time the Pool opens for the season on June 12, or sometime later during the summer. Recreation Department personnel remain in constant contact with the Nassau County Health Department. There will still be no swim lessons offered this year because it puts instructors at risk working that closely with children, and the swim team will not be competing this season as most other nearby pools are not competing this season either.

VILLAGE SEEKS RESIDENTS TO SERVE ON COMMITTEES

The Board of Trustees is actively seeking residents to volunteer to be on the following BOT Committees:

1. St. Paul’s Main Building Committee
2. Mobility Impaired Committee
3. Village Fire Safety Committee
4. Village Government Citizen Oversight Committee

Interested applicants, who should have some relevant experience in the field for the Committee they are applying for, can send their resume and a brief letter of interest to Karen Altman, Village Clerk, at 351 Stewart Avenue or via email at kaltman@gardencityny.net. Please be advised the proposed new Committees will be charged with specific goals, have a designated Chairperson, a set number of members with experience in various disciplines and a specific schedule. Each committee will report to the Board of Trustees. The deadline to apply is May 28, 2021.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

As part of our ongoing work to upgrade our five neighborhood parks, we’re pleased to announce that we have new game tables available at various locations. In all five parks, we now have permanent concrete “Cornhole” games. Game parts (beanbags) are available for use during staffed hours (3:00 p.m. – dark weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to dark Saturdays). At Grove Park, Nassau Haven Park, and the Sr. Recreation Center, new permanent concrete Chess/Checker tables are also available. As with the Cornhole games, playing pieces are available for use during staffed hours.

‘NO EMPTY CHAIR’ CAMPAIGN

From April 19-23, the Garden City Police Department participated in the NYS Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee’s *No Empty Chair Campaign*, an enforcement and education initiative that promotes safe driving habits of young drivers particularly in the vicinity of area schools.

The goal of the campaign is to ensure that students develop safe driving habits that will allow them to attend their proms and graduation ceremonies. According to the CDC, motor vehicle crashes are the second leading cause of death for U.S. teens. Furthermore, motor vehicle crashes are higher among teens aged 16-19 than any other age group.

During this campaign, the Garden City Police Department focused its efforts on the enforcement of speeding in school zones, seatbelt/child restraint violations, cell phone and texting violations, passing stopped school bus violations, and underage drinking. As a result of this initiative the Department issued 166 tickets for various traffic and safety violations, including:

- 8 Excessive Speed in a School Zone
- 13 Excessive Speed
- 13 Cellphone/Texting Violations
- 4 Passed School Bus Violations
- 6 Seatbelt Violations including two children not appropriately restrained
- 5 Suspended License/Registration Incidents
- 6 Red Light Violations
- 7 Stop Sign Violations

ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING

The Village of Garden City celebrated Arbor Day on Friday, April 30 with a tree planting ceremony on the Village Green. Members of the Village's Beautification Committee and Recreation Commission joined Recreation Commissioner Paul Blake, Recreation Assistant Superintendent Sandy Young and Village Trustee John Delany in planting a red maple behind the Gazebo. This Arbor Day observance is one of four requirements Garden City must achieve in order to be designated a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service with the National Association of State Foresters. The award recognizes communities that meet detailed, objective standards applied to trees on public property. According to Mr. Blake, Garden City has also met the other three requirements: a tree board or department; a tree care ordinance; and an annual community forestry budget of a minimum expenditure per capita. To see photos from the tree planting ceremony, visit the "Village Notifications and Alerts" section of the Village website, www.gardencityny.net.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The Board of Trustees will hold a Regular Meeting via Zoom on Thursday, May 6, 2021. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. The Zoom meeting link is below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82853791903?pwd=OUhFMkxKVGcwazFvSzI1cTYxNS81Zz09>

Meeting ID: 828 5379 1903 Passcode: fm5Kpw – By phone - 1-929-205-6099 - Meeting ID: 828 5379 1903

Passcode: 682151