

April 28, 2021

THE MAYOR'S UPDATE

cveneziale@gardencityny.net

BUDGET ADOPTION APRIL 29, 2021

The Board of Trustees will hold a Special meeting via Zoom to adopt the 2021-22 Tentative Village Budget on Thursday, April 29th beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Zoom meeting link is as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81817192991?pwd=L3FVVVEROb05HSzZ5V01La3ZnenMzZz09>

Meeting ID: 818 1719 2991

Passcode: iWUBA5

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,81817192991#,,, *546527# US (New York)

WATER UPDATE

The Village's water consultant, H2M Architects + Engineers, has issued a quarterly update regarding wellhead treatment progress, potential issues, water quality, a schedule of current and future work and sampling results for emerging contaminants at each well site. For example, at the Waterworks site (Well No. 7) the treatment system went online this month. At Well No. 12 (Rockaway Avenue plant site), performance testing is taking place in May; the treatment system is expected to go online in June. Further, treatment systems are expected to go online in May for Well No. 10 (Clinton Road site) and Well Nos. 13 and 14, which are both located at the Country Club site. Treatment systems at Well Nos. 15 and 16 (Hilton Park site) are expected to go online this summer, in July 2021. The treatment system for Well No. 8, also located at the Rockaway Avenue plant site, is expected to go online in October. All of this information can be found on the Village website, www.gardencityny.net, under the "Departments" tab – "Water and Sewer Department" tab on the left side of the homepage.

At the water tower, exterior blasting of the new water storage tank, except for the top of the roof, will be completed this week. Exterior stripe coating will commence. The water tower is currently on schedule for completion in July.

CITIZENS BUDGET REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Citizens Budget Review & Advisory Committee (CBRAC) submitted its [Budget recommendations](#) to the Board of Trustees and Joint Conference Committee. CBRAC is a volunteer committee comprised of Garden City residents from each of the four Property Owners' Associations. CBRAC members include William McAndrews (chair), Michael Fonseca, Thomas Nastasi, Andrea Parlanti, Jeffrey Rathgeber, Shane Pomeroy, John Schultz and Yvonne Varano.

This Committee, appointed by the Joint Conference Committee, is tasked with analyzing and evaluating the current fiscal year budget and providing strategic and specific recommendations to the Board of Trustees, as well as reporting its recommendations to the JCC. The process includes independent review and analysis of the budget packages and other supporting documentation. The JCC directed the Committee to perform a detailed review of three departments it selected – Buildings Department, Water Enterprise Fund and Department of Public Works. Additionally, CBRAC members participated in public work sessions held by the Village and Board of Trustees. To read the CBRAC Report in its entirety, please visit the “Village Notifications and Alerts” section of the Village website homepage, www.gardencityny.net.

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 a resume and 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.

COURTNEY ROSENBLATT ACHIEVES CMFO DESIGNATION

Village Auditor Courtney Rosenblatt has qualified for the Credentialed Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO) designation. As a member of the New York State Society of Municipal Officers, Ms. Rosenblatt has the opportunity to undergo additional training related to her field. Earlier this year Ms. Rosenblatt also earned the Government Finance Institute Foundation accreditation and expects to receive the advance level accreditation this fall. Ms. Rosenblatt, a longtime resident of Garden City, was appointed to the role of Village Auditor in July 2016. The Village Auditor serves as a member of the management team, conducting independent regular reviews of the departments through the observation of the operation of internal controls and procedures by way of the claims auditing process. These reviews are intended to assist the Village in assessing the effectiveness and efficiencies of the various departments and developing recommendations to improve performance and controls. Mayor Cosmo Veneziale, on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, extends his congratulations to Ms. Rosenblatt on this achievement.

FIRE SAFETY ASSESSMENT

During the continued budget hearing on April 22, 2021, Mayor Cosmo Veneziale recommended reducing the placeholder amount in the tentative budget for the proposed Edgemere Firehouse project from \$7.5 million to \$3.5 million for restoration and code compliance. The Board will revisit the Edgemere project after a full assessment of all firehouses in the Village, as well as how the Village is dealing with fire safety in Garden City, is complete. The Mayor's proposed Fire Safety Committee will be tasked with this assessment. The Board will then decide how the \$3.5 million will be dispersed amongst the three firehouses – Fire Station No. 2 at Edgemere Road and Stewart Avenue, Fire Headquarters located at the west side of Village Hall and Fire Station No. 3 at St. James Street North and Clinton Road.

GARDEN CITY DOG PARK

The Garden City Recreation Commission is considering possible locations for a Village dog park - St. Paul's, the south end of Grove Street, which Recreation Commissioner Paul Blake said is already being used as a de facto dog park, and the grass area at the corner of Second Street and Hilton Avenue. The Commission is currently seeking input from area residents.

“The dog park business is picking up steam like nobody's business,” Mr. Blake said. “We want to make sure we get this right.” The Commission has worked with Consultant Marilyn Glasser, who provided her knowledge and advice at no charge to the Village. Although specifics like size and materials such as synthetic turf versus natural turf were discussed during the April 22, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting, the Commission is just looking at a concept right now.

GARDEN CITY POOL ON SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 12 OPENING

The Recreation and Parks Department is readying the Pool for a June 12, 2021 opening. According to Recreation Commissioner Paul Blake, the Department received guidance from the Nassau County Department of Health earlier this month regarding COVID-19 protocol changes. Fifty percent occupancy restrictions have been lifted at public pools for the upcoming summer season.

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 still successfully socially distant at six feet without a mask and anything less than six feet with a mask, Mr. Blake advised. “So right now, unless we hear something different in the next two weeks, the plan is to open the Pool on time,” he said.

There will 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. “We have tons of residents who are looking forward to coming to the Pool. To just walk down there with their pass and not have to make a reservation - that's going to be real normal for the folks in the Village so we plan on going full tilt,” Mr. Blake said.

GCFD CHIEFS, LINE OFFICIERS

The Garden City Fire Department's chiefs and line and corporate officers took their oaths of office Thursday, April 22, 2021 during ceremonies at Village Hall. Mayor Cosmo Venezia did the honors. Devyn Moody will serve as Chief of the Department. 1st Assistant Chief Matthew Pearn, 2nd Assistant Chief James Taunton and 3rd Assistant Chief Jonathan Parrella will aide Chief Moody during the coming year. To see photos from the ceremony, please visit the "Notifications and Alerts" section of the Village website, www.gardencityny.net.

GCPD COLLECTS 99 POUNDS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The Garden City Police Department collected 99 pounds of unwanted, unused and expired medications while Adelphi Public Safety collected 64 pounds during the Drug Enforcement Agency's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 24. Police maintained a collection center at Police Headquarters.

FRIENDS OF THE GC LIBRARY TOTE BAG SALE

The Friends of the Garden City Public Library is selling tote bags in the Library Café. The bags are white with maroon trim, have handles with a gold pineapple and have "Garden City" printed on them. The cost is \$10.00 each, cash or check. All proceeds support Library programs. The remaining sale dates and times are:

- Saturday, May 1 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 6 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 8 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.