

April 14, 2021

THE MAYOR'S UPDATE

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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 first quarter sampling results for emerging contaminants at each well site. Of the 10 wells, six are currently out of service. All of this information can be found on the Village website, www.gardencityny.net, under the "Departments" tab on the left side of the homepage.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON CANNABIS SALES, CONSUMPTION

Last month, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed legislation allowing the licensing of cannabis dispensaries in New York State. Cannabis storefronts will be allowed to open as soon as next year under the measure (S.854-A/A.1248-A). Cities, towns, and villages, however, have until the end of this year to opt out from having dispensaries and "pot cafés" in their communities.

The Mayor, Cosmo Veneziale, has requested all members of the Board of Trustees be better informed of the potential impact of the new Cannabis Law before any final decision is made. He would like the Village Administrator and Village Counsel to provide an analysis as to how the law will impact the residents Garden City.

BUDGET HEARING RESUMES APRIL 22

The April 5, 2021 hearing on the tentative 2021-22 Village Operating Budget and 2022-26 Proposed Capital Projects Plan was adjourned and will continue at the next Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 22, 2021, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The meeting Zoom info is as follows:

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85314813860?pwd=NUlyNXlaRTVjV2o0b0ZLSXUrMGZpZz09>

Meeting ID: 853 1481 3860

Passcode: f4cW1h

One tap mobile

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+13017158592,,85314813860#,,,*788264# US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 853 1481 3860

Passcode: 788264

The 2021-22 proposed expenditure budget totals \$65.1 million. It represents a 0.57 percent (\$370,000) decrease over the prior year. The tentative budget is again tax cap compliant, with a proposed 1.95 percent Tax Levy Limit increase.

Major components of the 2021-22 expense budget (\$65.1m) include salary, benefits and taxes (\$37.2m); consulting and contractual services (\$5.8m); contribution to Capital Projects (\$4.5m); debt service (\$4.3m); contribution to the Library (\$3.3m); and general liability insurance (\$1.9m).

Proposed capital projects represent \$12.551 million. According to Mr. Suozzi, the Village is currently juggling 41 projects in various stages of completion, including the St. Paul's abatement project and the vinyl covering for the Tennis bubble, which have both been approved but are awaiting \$2.6 million in bond resolutions.

The newly elected Mayor and Trustees need more time to evaluate the proposed budget and provide final comments. Citizens will have an opportunity at the April 22, 2021 meeting to comment on any possible changes made to the proposed budget before it is finalized. The meeting Zoom link will be posted to the Village website, www.gardencityny.net, on the day of the meeting. To view the 2021-22 Tentative Operating Budget and the 2022-26 proposed Capital Projects Plan, click [here](#).

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

The Garden City Police Department will be participating in the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 24th, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. A collection center will be maintained by the Garden City Police Department at Headquarters, 349 Stewart Avenue. This event provides an opportunity for residents to safely discard unwanted, unused, and expired medications.

As per the DEA, "The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 9.7 million people misused prescription pain relievers, 4.9 million people misused prescription stimulants, and 5.9 million people misused prescription tranquilizers or sedatives in 2019. The survey also showed that a majority of misused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet."

The Police Department also advises the Drug Take Back Program allows for the safe disposal of drugs instead of flushing, burying, or throwing them out in the garbage which poses significant environmental and health risks.

LIRR EXPANSION PROJECT

Work is beginning to resume on the LIRR Expansion Project following a temporary suspension of construction activities. Over the past several weeks, this project has been the focus of what the LIRR describes as a "rigorous review of safety protocols and procedures across the length of the corridor." For a detailed overview of project

activities, click [here](#). Questions? Residents can call the hotline at 203-4955 or email CommunityOutreach@LIRExpansion.com.

GCFD ELECTIONS

On Thursday evening, April 8, the Garden City Fire Department held its annual meeting and elections. Congratulations to the following officers for the 2021-2022 year, who will take their oaths of office at the April 22, 2021 Board meeting:

- Devyn Moody, Chief of Department
- Matthew Pearn, 1st Assistant Chief
- James Taunton, 2nd Assistant Chief
- Jonathan Parrella, 3rd Assistant Chief

- Thomas Rivera, Captain - Engine Co.
- Terry Randell, Captain - Truck Co.

- Matthew Carroll, 1st Lieutenant - Engine Co.
- Daniel Roeper, 1st Lieutenant - Truck Co.
- Robert Carpentier, 2nd Lieutenant - Engine Co.
- Chris Maier, 2nd Lieutenant - Truck Co.

Thanks to Chief Tom Strysko, who served as Chief of the Department for the past two years.

HYDRANT FLUSHING PROGRAM

The Garden City Water Department began its semi-annual fire hydrant flushing program on Monday, April 5, 2021. The operation takes place between midnight and 7:00 a.m. to mitigate possible issues with water discoloration and water pressure. Anytime there is disruption to your water system, there is the possibility of sediment being stirred up in the system. As a result, residents could experience cloudy or discolored water. The best way to clear the discoloration is to run the COLD water, preferably from a faucet that is closest to where the water service enters the house. It could take a while; it might have to run for 30-40 minutes but it will clear up. Residents are cautioned to check for discoloration, particularly prior to using washing machines. The water discoloration poses no health concern. We appreciate your cooperation and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Please direct any questions to the Water Department, 516-465-4020.

POTHOLE REPAIRS

Pothole repair is ongoing in the Village. Roving crews are addressing problem areas that the Department of Public Works is aware of and responding to calls from residents for specific concerns. If a resident sees a pothole and wants to alert the Department for

repairs, please call the DPW dispatcher at 465-4031/32 and the Highway Department will be notified. Also, as a reminder, the Village does not own all of the streets in the Village. For example, Nassau Boulevard and portions of Stewart Avenue are Nassau County-owned. We cannot fix those streets but as always the Village attempts to have the County make repairs in a timely fashion.