

# VILLAGE NEWS



## Water Tank Design Plans On Schedule

*Replacement of existing tank could cost approximately \$8 million*



Design plans to replace the aging water tank off Old Country Road are on schedule and moving forward, according to Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi.

Although the Village Board has not made a formal decision at this time, Trustees did engage the professional services of consulting firm H2M Water to prepare plans and specifications for the design of a new elevated water storage tank at the existing location at Maria Lane and Old Country Road.

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## Garden City Trustees Approve Building Code Changes

The Garden City Board of Trustees unanimously adopted three local laws that modify existing Village code as it pertains to residential setback requirements, demolition permits and architectural review. The adoption of all three laws followed three public hearings held in December.

Growing concern about an uptick in residential extensions and new construction considered by some residents out of character with the surrounding area led to the creation of the Mayor's Committee on Building Code Changes in 2015.

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## Renovations Continue at Cluett Hall, Field House



Major renovations continue at Cluett Hall and the Field House.

At the Field House, all interior painting has been completed and new glass basketball backboards have been installed. New curtains are also being installed to match the paint scheme. The LED light conversion in both the Field House and Cluett Hall that began in November is now complete. New carpeting is also being installed in Cluett Hall.

“We are excited about all of the improvements. These, along with other improvements identified in the Department's Strategic Plan, demonstrate good stewardship of our facilities and an overall improved experience by all,” Kevin Ocker, chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs, said.

In December, refurbishment work on the Field House floor began with a total “Pour Over” and new lines. “The Field House is really coming together. The new floor is fantastic,” Mr. Ocker said. The restrooms in that building are also being refurbished.

On Sunday afternoons the St. Paul’s Field House is open for “Family Fun” for Village families. The gym is available for use from 2:45 to 5:45 p.m. until March 12.

Upgrades are detailed in the Department of Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan, which can be viewed in full on the Village's website, [www.gardencity.net](http://www.gardencity.net).

# Approved Amendments Strengthen Village Code

Following a public hearing in January, the Garden City Board of Trustees unanimously approved amendments to the Village Code regarding water metering and the installation and reading of meters.

As residents are aware, the Village is in the process of converting all water meters in the Village to radio-read water meters. Radio-read water meter technology reduces the time needed to read meters and eliminates the need for Village personnel to enter upon private property to perform readings.

To date, approximately 3,500 radio-read meters have already been installed. These meters are factory tested and extremely accurate compared to existing meters. Installation continues on the remaining meters, which totals approximately 500.

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- Beginning March 15, every property that does not have a radio-read water meter installed will be charged \$250 meter-reading fee.
- The fee will be a recurring charge assessed each time a manual water-meter reading is taken.

Although the Village owns and maintains the meters, it is the responsibility of all water customers to maintain the water lines, pipes and fixtures within their homes and from their homes to the water main.

If Village personnel determine that a new radio-read meter cannot be installed due to the condition of a customer's lines, pipes or fixtures, it is the owner's and/or occupant's responsibility to repair and/or replace the affected lines, pipes or fixtures.

Beginning March 15, 2017, the Village will begin assessing a \$250 meter-reading fee, charged to every property that does not have a radio-read water meter installed. The fee will be a recurring charge assessed each time a manual water-meter reading is taken. A separate fee shall be assessed for each water meter read in the event there is more than one meter on a given property.

“The goal of the legislation is not to collect fines. The goal of this legislation is to let residents let us in to change the meters and for them to address any plumbing issues that are preventing the meters from being installed properly,” Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi said. “The legislation gives us an enforcement capability.”

If a radio-read meter fails to provide a reading, property owners shall grant the Village access to the meter to inspect, repair and/or replace the meter, as needed. Failure or refusal to do so will result in the Village billing the property owner based on the average rate of consumption during the prior three metering periods when the meter was in working order. If a property owner continually denies the Village access to the premises for a period of one year, the Village will assess an annual \$500 surcharge against the property until the meter is replaced or returned to operation.

For more information about this newly adopted local law, visit [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net).

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Originally constructed in 1933, the 83-year-old tank was repainted in 1992. Emergency repairs were made to the tank's roof due to leaks and holes in 2015. Though the coating system is in poor condition, Dennis Kelleher, P.E., senior vice president of H2M Architects and Engineers, said the tank is structurally sound.

Replacement of the existing tank could cost approximately \$8 million, dependent upon the market and chosen tank style. A total of \$4.5 million was budgeted for the tank's replacement; the Water Fund will fund the remainder. Lead abatement is not required and any future tank repainting would be less costly. The existing water tower will be demolished prior to the new tower being constructed. Therefore, Garden City will be adjusting its water pressure off the Mineola elevated tank during the entire project.

A trio of tank styles have been discussed: a multi-leg tower similar to the ones located in the Village of Rockville Centre; a single pedestal tower like the tower West Hempstead replaced approximately 10 years ago; and a column, which is the same style tank currently in Garden City.

## **Town of Hempstead To Share Costs of DEIS Review**



The Town of Hempstead has agreed to share in the costs associated with hiring experts to review and critique the Long Island Rail Road's Third Track Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), released in November 2016.

The 1,000+ page document, brimming with technical data, is virtually impossible for laymen to review and conclude whether or not this project will adversely affect Garden City, Mayor Nicholas Episcopia said.

In light of this, the Village's Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to retain the professional services of Beveridge & Diamond, environmental counsel, as well as The Vertex Companies, environmental engineers, to analyze the DEIS.

The Town will contribute \$25,000 to help pay for the cost of retaining these experts. "We all owe a debt of gratitude to Town Supervisor Anthony Santino, Councilman Ed Ambrosino and Receiver of Taxes Don Clavin," Mayor Episcopia said. "This is a great example of cooperation between local governments in making sure that our residents are protected if this project actually becomes reality."

Supervisor Santino added, "There is nothing more important than protecting the health of our residents. A major proposal like the LIRR third track project includes a host of prospective environmental consequences that could profoundly and negatively affect people near the project area."

Visit [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net) and click on the "LIRR 3rd Track Information" tab for more information.

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Committee members included Hugh Lacy, chair of the Architectural Design Review Board (ADRB), and Robert Cunningham, chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The two long-time residents have a combined total of almost 57 years of community service in the area of architecture design review and zoning. Fellow resident James Bauer served as Committee chair.

The amendments balance the preservation of the unique character of the Village's neighborhoods with the right of a homeowner to improve his or her property and the right of neighboring property owners to continue to enjoy the character and curb appeal of their homes. They are also designed to insure that new construction does not impact the light, air and privacy rights of the neighboring property owners.

There were three guiding principles underlying the drafting of the new laws, according to Mr. Bauer: work was open and transparent; the balance between preservation of the architectural character of the Village and homeowners' rights was maintained; and the changes were simple and easy to understand.

During the process, eight presentations were made to the Property Owners' Associations, three were made to the Board of Trustees and all of the documents, including citizens' comments, were posted on the Village website.

Changes were made based on feedback from residents, Village Trustees, architects and others. The Superintendent of Buildings also reviewed the proposed changes from an implementability and enforcement standpoint. The local laws underwent nearly a dozen revisions before their adoption.

To review the local laws, visit the Village's website, [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net).

## Code Changes Now In Effect

The amendments balance the preservation of the unique character of the Village's neighborhoods with the right of a homeowner to improve his or her property and the right of neighboring property owners to continue to enjoy the character and curb appeal of their homes:

- The minimum required distance between the sides of a new house and adjacent homes has increased by three feet on a 60' x 100' plot. Plots between 60' and 75' feet wide require combined side setbacks of 30 percent of the front width of the plot.
- If a property is to be left vacant after demolition the owner is required to fill in the foundation, grade the property and plant grass. If the property is left vacant, a bond or some other form of liquid security is required if the Village has to mitigate the problem.
- More formal guidelines are now required to obtain ADRB approval for an extension, structural changes or major alterations that could impact the streetscape. "In kind" replacements that do not require structural changes do not require ADRB approval.

## Hosting A Party? Senior Center Now Available For Rent



The Garden City Department of Recreation and Parks now has its new Senior Center on Golf Club Lane available for rental to residents.

The new facility offers comfortable, climate-controlled community rooms year-round at an affordable price from intimate meeting rooms that are perfect for smaller groups or business meetings to parties, Christenings, family celebrations and so much more. The facility also has a full commercial kitchen used for your choice of caterer and alcohol is permitted.

The South Room can be rented on a weeknight or on the weekends when not in use for a senior event. The room has a capacity of 120 people, including tables and chairs. This room may be split in two parts to accommodate smaller programs; the west side can accommodate 40 people while the east side can accommodate 80 people. The South Room has dedicated men's and women's bathrooms, located near the kitchen.

The Pool Room, which is for adults only, can accommodate 12 people.

Rental prices vary for two-hour, four-hour or full day (more than four hours) events. A 20 percent non-refundable deposit is needed at time of booking to secure the room. The facility is non-smoking. Please visit [www.gardencityrecreation.org](http://www.gardencityrecreation.org) for additional information about the following:

- Senior Center permit
- Senior Center on Golf Club Lane rental prices

## Police Increase Manpower, Bring Department Complement to 52



Three Garden City Police Officers took their oaths of office in January, bringing the Village department complement to 52. Trustee Stephen Makrinos, who serves as Commissioner, did the honors.

The three recruits were given the opportunity to work for the Garden City Police Department after a comprehensive selection process. "During the interview process, both Inspector Doyle and I were impressed with the skills and qualifications of each of these candidates," Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson said.

Matthew Egan received his Associates degree in criminal justice from Suffolk County Community College in 2012 and had been a Police Officer with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) since 2013. While employed with the NYPD, Officer Egan received specialized training in several areas, including drug field testing, firearms tactics, Hazmat, crisis intervention, property evidence tracking system and site protection and document screening. His first assignment with the NYPD was patrolling housing projects in east Harlem; moving on to the patrol of numerous housing projects in the borough of Brooklyn. Shortly thereafter Officer Egan was recruited for special assignment to the Times Square Foot Patrol Unit in the Midtown section of Manhattan. He continued to work in this high profile, community-oriented unit until the Garden City Police Department hired him.

Thomas Carroll received a B.A. in business administration from Fordham University in 2005 and a Master of Business Administration from C.W. Post in 2012. He had been a Police Officer with the New York City Police Department since January 2013, receiving training focusing on operational functions, quality of life conditions and patrol. His first assignment with the NYPD was at the 67th Precinct, Impact Response Team, which focused on high crime, drug prone locations in both a Sector Patrol and Beat Officer function. He was later assigned to the 102nd Precinct Sector Patrol, focusing on quality of life conditions and patrol before becoming a Police Officer in Garden City.

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Sean Carrera received his B.A. in criminal justice from Quinnipiac University in 2009. While serving as a Massapequa Volunteer Firefighter, Officer Carrera received the President's Volunteer Service Award from the Corporation of National and Community Service in 2012, and after Hurricane Sandy, received two commendations for his service during the storm - a Certificate of Merit from the New York State Assembly in recognition of his dedication and commitment and a Certificate of Recognition from the Nassau County Legislature.

Matthew Beard, an officer sworn in at a previous Board of Trustees meeting, graduated the Nassau County Police Academy January 3, 2017. He was among 181 recruits who received certificates of completion during a ceremony at the Tilles Center.

He has served as a Police Communications Operator for the Garden City Police Department since 2013. Born in Oceanside in 1984, Officer Beard grew up in Merrick, where he attended Calhoun High School, graduating in 2002. He went on to Hofstra University graduating with a Bachelor's degree in psychology and a Master's degree in counseling.

"The Police Department is excited to have Officers Egan and Carroll, as well as Recruit Carrera, join the Department. They will surely help increase the visibility of police patrols throughout the Village," Commissioner Jackson said. "Since graduating from the Nassau Police Academy with high honors, Officer Beard has been assigned to the patrol force and is already making valuable contributions towards the safety of the residents."

Trustee Makrinos added, "I congratulate Officers Egan, Carroll and Beard, along with Police Recruit Carrera, and wish them the best of luck in their careers. Each one brings a unique set of skills that will help complement our already strong department. In addition, by getting our complement up to 52 officers, we will be able to increase patrol and traffic enforcement within the Village."