



## Mayoral Community Update

September 11, 2024

Dear Residents,

I am excited to announce the appointment of Ms. Alexandra Marshall as the new Village Manager of Scarsdale, effective immediately. This decision was ratified in a unanimous vote by the Village Board at our September 10, 2024, board meeting.

Over the course of the past year, beginning last fall, the Village Board conducted a nationwide search for a new Village Manager. We engaged the search firm SGR who brought 20 resumes to the board. Four candidates were interviewed and completed in-depth questionnaires and personal statements. Two final candidates met with stakeholders in both the community and staff as well as the full board in the spring. After much discussion and feedback from all involved, the board decided we had yet to find the right person for the position.

In June, as we continued our discussions as to how best to proceed, Ms. Marshall notified the Board that she would be interested in participating in the next iteration of the search for a Village Manager. Having already served in the position for eight months at the time, she knew she was ready to take on the role of Village Manager.

Over the course of the summer, the Board met with Ms. Marshall and conducted a formal interview. After successfully filling the role of Manager over the last year and serving our community effectively, the Board is confident that Ms. Marshall is the best person for the job.

Alexandra, or Alex as she is known to many, has been a vital part of our community for the past three years. She has served as Acting Village Manager for the last year, a role in which she has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to our village. Before stepping into this position, Alex was our Deputy Village Manager for two years, where she played a crucial role in many of our initiatives and budget processes.

Before joining us in Scarsdale, Alex spent nearly six years in the Administrator's office in the Village of Rye Brook, where she honed her skills in public administration and municipal management. Her experience, combined with her natural ability to listen and address concerns efficiently and effectively, has earned her deep respect among our department heads and village staff. Alex previously served as President of the Municipal Administrators Association of Metropolitan New York and is currently an Executive Board Member of the New York State City/County Management Association. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Fordham University and earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration at the College of New Rochelle.

Ms. Marshall is highly regarded by the Village Board, which recognizes her dedication to our village and the positive impact she has had on our community. Her problem-solving skills, professionalism, and approachable nature have made her an invaluable asset to Scarsdale.

We are confident that under Ms. Marshall's leadership, our village will continue to thrive and that she will guide us with the same dedication and vision that she has demonstrated throughout her career. Please join us in congratulating Ms. Marshall on her well-deserved appointment.

Now that we have filled the role of Village Manager, the search to find our next Deputy Village Manager will begin next week.

## **Community Updates**

### Land Use Code:

In addition to this exciting news, I wanted to provide the community with some recent updates. After months of thoughtful discussions with Village staff, our planning consultant, land use professionals, land use board members, and hearing from the community, the Village Board voted on new [land use code changes](#) at our meeting on July 9, 2024, subsequently ending the six month moratorium. These code changes were a necessary step in addressing community concerns about the impact of development on stormwater. Our staff has put together an [FAQ document](#) to help the community navigate these changes to our code. Our Village Planner, Building Inspector, and Village Engineer hosted a [virtual Q&A session](#) for the land use professionals in the community, which we've recorded and added to our village website as an additional resource. In the coming months, the Village Board will continue to explore potential code improvements in the areas of bulk and historic preservation.

### Stormwater:

Stormwater continues to be a priority for the board, and we have several projects currently in the works. For the area of Cushman Road, Garden Road, and Varian Lane, our consultants at H2M have recently prepared a preliminary draft report which includes hydraulic analysis and recommendations for improvements. This report is currently being reviewed by staff. In the area of George Field Park, H2M has completed several rounds of hydraulic analysis and is in the process of determining recommended improvements.

H2M has also been authorized and is about to undertake an analysis of the replacement of the culvert under Griffen Avenue. Regarding the Sheldrake River, our consultants at Mott MacDonald have completed their initial [analysis and recommendations](#) for the reduction of flooding along the Sheldrake River which was presented to the community at the work session on July 16. Village staff is currently reviewing next steps to determine the costs and benefits of a refined design in order to prepare a FEMA grant ready project. I am appreciative of our staff's efforts that recently enabled us to be the recipient of a \$1,156,326.75 FEMA grant for the replacement of the culverts on Catherine Road. Lastly, the Hutchinson River stream maintenance work has been awarded to a contractor by the city of New Rochelle and will involve sediment removal from the stream on public and private property. Work there is anticipated to begin next week.

### Pool Project:

Another priority for the board has been the [Pool Complex Project](#). I'm pleased to say that the chairs of the Board's Pool Committee and staff have held productive conversations with our architects at Lothrop & Associates and construction manager, Hill International. Preliminary programmatic designs based on survey input and community engagement have been prepared and are in the process of being refined. This work has also included input from the Pool Redevelopment Advisory Committee. We look forward to having programmatic designs to share with the community soon and anticipate having a work session on this topic on Tuesday, October 29 at 7pm. Please note that these designs are preliminary. The work session is intended to help finalize the programmatic phase of this project before we move to schematic design where more detailed designs and pricing will be set forth. As this project progresses, we will continue to update our [anticipated project timeline](#), which can be found on the [project webpage](#).

### Joint Field Study:

We are also continuing to make progress on the joint field study with the school district and are expecting to have a comprehensive public presentation from the consultant to the community in the very

near future. I'm proud to say our relationship with the schools is stronger than ever, and we continue to have incredible collaboration with the school board and superintendent's office.

#### Destination Scarsdale:

We have much to look forward to this fall with the continuation of Destination Scarsdale on Sundays. The Farmers Market continues with all your favorite autumn offerings including apples, squash, pastries, jams, roasts, and more. In addition, we have enhanced Sunday offerings coming up such as Public Safety Day on September 15. Stop by the Farmers Market to say hello to Police, Fire, and EMS from 10AM to noon while you shop.

Also, for the first time, we'll be having a Howl-o-ween Dog Parade in the Village Center on Sunday, October 27. Bring your canine companions for a fun stroll in costume and for a chance to be recognized as the spookiest pup in Scarsdale. All contestants must have a New York State dog license registered with the Village to participate. NYS Dog Licenses are issued by local governments including our Village in the Clerk's Office. Residents will be able to secure a dog license at the event if they do not have one prior to the event. Stay tuned for more details!

#### Public Safety:

We are keenly aware of the public's concerns stemming from the recent rise in local crime, including last week's acts of vandalism. Let me reassure our community that your safety is our top priority. The Village has been proactive in deploying advanced technology, including License Plate Readers (LPRs) strategically placed throughout key locations, as well as other cutting-edge surveillance tools. We continue to explore new technological solutions to bolster the efforts of our dedicated police department.

Our collaboration with Westchester County's Real-Time Crime Center, alongside partnerships with other municipalities and state and federal agencies, ensures a coordinated response to what is unfortunately a regional issue. No one in our Village Government or Police Department finds the recent criminal activity acceptable, and we are committed to identifying those responsible while also strengthening deterrence measures.

SPD continues to maintain a strong presence in the community, and we will also continue to share crime prevention tips to keep everyone informed. Together, we will ensure that our Village remains a safe and welcoming place for all.

I'd also like to remind the community to sign up for [Everbridge](#), the Village's emergency notification. Creating an account is the best way to stay up to date with important information via text, email, robocalls, and through the Everbridge app.

Honoring the Victims and Heroes of 9/11:

As a concluding note, today we pause to remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001. We honor the lives lost and the extraordinary bravery shown by so many on that day. It is a time to reflect on the resilience, unity, and compassion that emerged from such profound tragedy. We remember the first responders, the everyday heroes, and the families who endured unimaginable loss, and we reaffirm our commitment to fostering a community that stands together in the face of adversity. May this day serve as a reminder of our shared humanity and the enduring strength we find in each other.

This morning, I, along with members of the Village Board, will attend a service with our police and fire departments to commemorate the anniversary of 9/11. This afternoon, I will represent Scarsdale at a poignant service at the Kensico Dam Plaza with the County Executive, State and local representatives as well as the families of those who lost their lives on 9/11 or due to health-related illnesses from the rescue efforts. It is a tumultuous time, and I hope the memory of 9/11 will help to bring us all together and quell some of the division and divisiveness.

I wish you all a wonderful start to the school year.

Sincerely,



Justin K. Arest  
Mayor