

THE GARDEN CITY CASINO

- Founded in 1895, the Casino was gifted by the former Garden City Company to the Village of Garden City to be used for recreational purposes.
- The Casino comprises four har-tru tennis courts plus an 1880's building redesigned by Stanford White. It is an integral part of Garden City's recreational complex.
- The Casino is not a private club: any resident can join. Activities include seasonal tennis, bridge parties, and providing space for catered social gatherings (the choice of local caterers is the client's, not the Casino's).
- The Casino is completely self – supporting. It collects dues from members and is managed by non – paid volunteers. It is run as a non-profit cooperative. A no frills operation, it serves residents' needs at modest costs.
- The Casino operates similarly to the Garden City Pool: residents pay a yearly fee to participate. However as opposed to the Pool, the Casino receives no financial or management assistance from the Village.
- The Casino has maintained its grounds, tennis courts, and the historic Stanford White building under terms of repeated 20 – year license agreements with the Village. However the Village hasn't renewed the traditional 20 – year agreement, providing only short term extensions.
- The Casino needs to take a long term view to budget for and carry out capital improvements, particularly regarding the Stanford White building. The Casino does not ask the Village to fund capital improvements.
- Hence the Casino urgently needs a renewal of the traditional 20 – year license agreement. A short – term extension is not helpful.
- As Deputy Mayor Bob Bolebruch put it in the Letters section of the 8/28 GARDEN CITY NEWS, “We are all working toward the same goal: keep Garden City a great community.” The Casino stands ready to continue its long term role in supporting that goal.