

August 23, 2023

### **ST. PAUL'S OPINION POLL OCTOBER 21, 2023**

Our Village is at a critical point in addressing the future of the St. Paul's Main Building. The Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of determining community support for a path forward. We have scheduled a St. Paul's Opinion Poll on Saturday, October 21, at the St. Paul's Field House so your voices may be heard. All registered voters who live in the Village are encouraged to participate in the poll. Absentee ballots will be available, as we would like this poll to be as inclusive as possible. In case you are not registered to vote, the deadline to register is October 11, 2023.

Please visit the newly-organized St. Paul's page on the Village website. We've dedicated a "St. Paul's Information" button on the homepage for easy access to important information about the history of the building, prior proposals for the Main Building, engineering and architectural reports, environmental impact studies, videos and photos of the Main Building, some of which were taken just this month, and past efforts to engage the community on the building's future. We hope residents find this wealth of information a valuable resource.

Our Village website is where residents will be able to get the most up-to-date and complete information on the upcoming opinion poll. The website page will soon include a "St. Paul's Building Frequently Asked Questions & Answers" section which will be updated throughout the process to address questions residents may have. We realize there will be many. To make sure everyone is as informed as possible before the opinion poll, an email address has been created to collect resident questions, and we will also be providing opportunities for written questions to be submitted at Village Hall, the Senior Center, and the Library. Our Village Clerk will be gathering these questions and working with me to make sure the questions are answered on our Village website or at information sessions which will be scheduled before the opinion poll.

After Labor Day Weekend, you will see information about the St. Paul's Poll provided in the *Garden City News*, on social media, and mailed to your home.

### **ST. PAUL'S EMAIL ADDRESS**

The Board of Trustees encourages residents to send questions regarding the October 21, 2023 St. Paul's opinion poll via an email dedicated to such: [stpaulsquestions@gardencityny.net](mailto:stpaulsquestions@gardencityny.net). Our Village Clerk will be monitoring the inbox and making sure the questions raised are addressed on our Village website, in mailings, or at our information sessions.

### **CASINO NEWS**

Earlier this month, Las Vegas Sands (LVS) filed a document requesting that the Town of Hempstead Board rezone the 70+ acre site where Nassau Coliseum and the Marriott Hotel sit, to allow for development of a casino and hotel complex. The information provided in the document provides a clearer picture of the scale of the project. Las Vegas Sands reported in the zoning application that its casino will be 393,726 square feet. We expect that the Town of Hempstead will complete a thorough and fair review of LVS' petition. We plan to fully participate in the process and are confident that the Town of Hempstead will serve in the best interest of its constituents and reject LVS' petition.

### **MEET AND GREET AUGUST 30**

To further increase engagement with residents, a Village Meet and Greet will be held Wednesday, August 30, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. This is a chance for residents to engage directly with the Board of Trustees in an informal setting without having to wait until the end of a Village Board meeting. The Meet and Greets do not have an agenda; Trustees will be available to discuss multiple issues and concerns.

## **BIKES AND E-BIKES PROHIBITED AT THE LIBRARY**

At the August 14, 2023 Library Board of Trustees meeting, the Code of Conduct was amended to include a rule that prohibits bicycles and e-bikes inside the Library or within 25 feet of Library entrances: *Bicycles and motorized vehicles, including e-bikes, e-scooters and electronic transportation devices, are not permitted in the Library or within 25 feet of Library entrances. Individuals with mobility impairments are permitted to use wheelchairs, walkers and other appropriate mobility aids on Library premises.* This measure is intended to provide a safe and comfortable environment for Library users.

## **BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY SERIES: SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES**

It's that time of year again. Summer vacation is almost over and schools are reopening. With that in mind, the Garden City Police Department has assembled a four-part series of articles to address back-to-school safety issues. Part One will address "Safe Driving Practices," Part Two "School Bus Safety," Part Three "Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety," and Part Four "Stranger Danger."

When schools open in the morning and close in the afternoon, the areas around schools are very busy and crowded. Parents and other adults can do much to improve traffic safety around our schools by driving cautiously, teaching their children safe practices, and limiting vehicle trips. In some cases, parents and other adults may be the cause of safety concerns. Drivers should obey all traffic laws and apply the following safety practices.

### **Back to School Safe Driving Practices:**

- When dropping off or picking up children at school, avoid parking on the opposite side of the street from the school. If you must park on the opposite side of the street, NEVER call your children to your car. Always meet them on the school side of the road and walk them to your car. Also, talk with them about what to do if you are not there on time.
- Make sure children are careful opening car doors. Children should always get in and out of your vehicle through the rear curbside door.
- Drivers should not double park or block traffic. Parking or waiting in red zones, such as disabled parking areas and no-stopping zones, is prohibited.
- Do not block school buses or use areas designated for buses only.
- Never stop or park in a crosswalk or within the posted crosswalk "No Parking" area. Students and other pedestrians rely on the crosswalk and need the visibility that the posted no-parking buffer provides to cross the street safely.
- Do not violate the law by using the excuse "I'll just be here for a minute" when picking up or dropping off students.
- U-turns are illegal within school zones. Avoid turning around in neighboring driveways. It is hard enough to see children and even harder when you are backing up or making U-turns.
- When backing up from a driveway or garage, be aware that children may be walking or bicycling to or from a school or school bus.

- Never leave a child of any age in a vehicle without adult supervision. A small child may rapidly suffer dehydration, heat exhaustion, and consequent organ failure. Older children could play games that may lead to tragedy.
- Learn the traffic patterns at the schools to avoid being a disruption.
- SLOW DOWN! You are free to drive even slower than the posted school zone speed limit and should always be considered when conditions warrant it, such as heavy rain, snow, fog, icy roads, darkness, or heavy traffic conditions.
- NEVER pass a stopped school bus when its red flashing lights are on. Whether you are behind the bus or approaching from the opposite direction, you must come to a complete stop and remain stopped until the warning lights are off. Be advised that any buses are now equipped with cameras that may result in violators receiving tickets for passing a stopped school bus. Motorists should keep in mind that young children usually see and hear differently than adults. Children only have two-thirds of the peripheral vision adults have, and they have difficulty determining the source of a sound. They are still learning to judge distance and speed. When a car is coming toward them, they cannot accurately judge how fast it is traveling or how long it will take to cover the distance. Children generally focus on one thing at a time. If they are playing with friends or riding bikes, it is unlikely they will be aware of your vehicle. Children are spontaneous and have trouble stopping an action once started. Children also tend to overestimate their abilities, thinking they can run across a street before the light changes or a car approaches.

If parents and other motorists make it a habit to incorporate these safe practices into their routines, the risk of injury or death to anyone in the school zone will be significantly reduced. The Garden City Police Department encourages everyone to read Part Two, “School Bus Safety,” next week.

#### **HAPPENING THIS WEEK IN GARDEN CITY**

- **MONDAY, AUGUST 28** 1:30 p.m Monday Movie Matinée: *Loving* at the Library
- **TUESDAY, AUGUST 29** 6:30 p.m. Architectural Design Review Board Meeting at Village Hall
- **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30** 7:30 p.m. Meet and Greet with Village Trustees at the Senior Center
- **THURSDAY, AUGUST 31** 11:15 a.m. Yoga with Maggie at the Senior Center