

November 8, 2023

With the results of the St. Paul's Public Opinion Poll, your Board of Trustees has an opportunity to move towards executing a St. Paul's project after three decades. I fully understand how difficult this task will be, and how difficult it has been for prior Boards whose efforts have been extensive.

What challenges do we face?

- Any project at St. Paul's will be expensive.
- The project will need to be funded largely if not entirely by taxpayers.
- No plan can be executed without community support.
- Nearly 40 percent of the residents who participated in the poll chose demolition.
- Of the 61 percent in favor of further efforts, suggestions of dividing into two camps - adaptive reuse or façadism - are being put forth.
- There are significant restrictions on the use of the building which is on Village property that has been designated as parkland.

Some question how it will be different this time around. Residents can help by:

- Staying engaged on this issue
- Endeavoring to remain open minded regardless of what your strongly held belief is of what is best
- Remembering that it is only by working collaboratively and being open to compromise that execution of any St. Paul's plan is possible

You will be hearing more in December about how we intend to move forward with this most challenging task. As the details of our plan forward are being worked through, we are focusing on the immediate steps that can be taken to protect the stained glass windows in the chapel and begin the necessary abatement.

VETERANS DAY

Thank you to the Long Island Chapter of the 42nd Division Association for conducting its annual Veterans Day observance and wreath placement on Saturday, November 4th at the 42nd Rainbow Division Monument. Myself and Deputy Mayor Lawrence Marciano, Jr. were honored to attend the moving ceremony. We hope you join us on Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11, when William Bradford Turner American Legion Post 265 conducts its ceremony commencing at 10:45 a.m. in the area surrounding the Veterans Memorial at the Library on Seventh Street. The American Legion Auxiliary will distribute poppies in the area surrounding the Memorial one hour before and one hour after the service that will be held at that location.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Irene Woo presented the Treasurer's Report during the November 2, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting. The General Fund is overall favorable to the budget by \$2.5 million mainly due to revenues and permit fees for major projects on Franklin Avenue; Police & Court fees collected, including approximately \$400,000 in parking ticket revenues; the sale of property to the LIRR (\$689,000); special grants and more. The deferred \$1.1 million reimbursable Business District Paving project was partially offset by higher sidewalk permits in the amount of \$190,000 and higher CHIPS aid the Village received (\$419,000). On the expenditure side, the General Fund has favorable variances within departments mostly due to lower salaries, benefits and taxes as a result of open or unfilled positions, less part-timers hired, unused contingency (\$159,000) and unused snow removal funds (\$273,000). Further, overall expenditures and revenues are in line with the budget and prior year.

OCTOBER GCFD ACTIVITY

Chief Matthew Pearn reported that during October the Department responded to 96 total calls:

- 85 "Signal 8" calls or non-emergency automatic alarms
- 11 general alarms, four of which were reported building fires that turned out to be false alarms
- 1 extrication
- 4 mutual aid calls to assist neighboring Fire Departments

NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

The GCPD, DEA and Adelphi University Public Safety collected more than 100 pounds of unused, unwanted, and expired medications during National Drug Take Back Day held at Garden City Police Headquarters and Adelphi University on Saturday, October 28. This event provides an opportunity for everyone to discard unwanted, unused, and expired medications safely. According to the DEA, pharmaceutical drugs can be just as dangerous as street drugs when taken without a prescription or a doctor's supervision. Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse. The Garden City Police Department also advises they accept unused, expired, and unwanted medications every day if someone could not turn in their medications on October 28. Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson states, "The Garden City Police Department and DEA's 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."

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT

The Village is applying for a 2023 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant, with help from Creighton Manning Engineering, LLP, which will provide funding application support in preparing one or more applications for the funding of pedestrian access and safety projects. The application development and any cost associated with the preparation of the application document(s), gathering field data and identifying the appropriate pedestrian treatments by the selected firm will be completed at no cost to the Village. If funding is received to implement the project(s), the selected firm may be utilized to perform preliminary design, final design, right of way and construction support and inspection services. Any cost associated with the firm's assistance in preparing the application is at no cost to the Village.

FALL LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Fall leaf collection began on Monday, November 6, in the Western Section and will run into the month of December. Please note that the exact date will be announced closer to the end of the leaf collection season. After that, leaves should be bagged and placed out on your Rubbish Day or brought down to the Village Dump Area. Please check the Village website for the location of the crews. The schedule may vary depending on weather conditions. Note, the Central Section, Village Parks and grass areas are collected by the Parks and Recreation Department.

- ONLY leaves are picked up during leaf collection.
- Grass, branches, plants and dirt will NOT be collected.

- If any of these items are mixed in with the leaves, the pile will not be picked up.

- Anything other than leaves can clog and damage the machinery slowing down the leaf collection schedule.

- Please inform your landscaper so they follow these instructions.
- NO leaves are to be placed in plastic bags.
- Please try not to park on piles of leaves.

- Workers will do their best to have vehicles moved if leaves are underneath them.

TOYS FOR TOTS

With the holiday season upon us, it is a time to reflect upon how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to share these times with family and friends. As you may be aware, many children are not so fortunate. To bring some happiness to families who do not have the resources to provide a gift for their child this year, the Garden City Police Department has a gift depository for the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Toys for Tots Program. Police Headquarters is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Your generous gifts could make a difference to a child, no matter how small. In the spirit of giving, please drop off any new, unused and unwrapped toys into collection boxes located in the lobby of the Garden City Police Department by December 18. Last year, the Department collected several boxes of toys, which the Marines distributed to many children. Thank you in advance for your support of this worthwhile program.

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 10:45 a.m. Veterans Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial at the Library on 7th Street

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 1:30 p.m. Monday Movie Matinée: *Arsenic & Old Lace* at the Library

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 7:00 p.m. Library Board of Trustees Meeting at the Library. The meeting will move immediately into Executive Session. At approximately 7:30 the meeting will move out of Executive Session to discuss the Agenda.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball at the Field House

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 4:00 p.m. Teen Advisory Board meeting at the Library. Must register on Eventkeeper.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 7:30 p.m. EAB meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 6:30 p.m. Traffic Commission meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 7:30 p.m. Adult Volleyball at the Field House

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17 3:30 p.m. Teen Gamers program at the Library. Must register on Eventkeeper.