

November 15, 2023

I am looking forward to announcing a plan forward on St. Paul's and am committed to following a process that is most likely to reach the goal - a plan for the St. Paul's Main Building that preserves part or all of the building, has wide community support, and can be executed.

I recognize that the residents have received all types of information, some of it erroneous, much of it outdated, about St. Paul's regarding potential project costs, environmental concerns, and the legalities of various potential uses because of its Parkland designation. As your elected representatives, we are determined to continue to work with the financial, legal, architectural and environmental professionals to provide accurate information for your review. We have a fiduciary and ethical obligation to you, the residents, to do so. It is understandable that many do not know what to think at this point, after 30 years, and have lost faith in the process, just as we are finally making some progress. We encourage you to stay engaged.

Facts matter and having the trust of residents as we embark on this challenging task is essential. We will continue to work to share the facts with residents on this very complex issue. The St. Paul's Page of the Village Website provides extensive information on St. Paul's and is being updated regularly. A few facts to consider: Not only does the Village not yet have a cost estimate for actual plans for a community or recreation center, either in a fully restored building or in a partially preserved structure with additional facilities added, but the most recent data for community needs is a decade old. At this point, we expect to begin with abatement which will need to be done for any St. Paul's Project, be it partial or full preservation. We are also taking steps to engage a renowned stained glass window expert to prevent any further damage to the windows in the chapel by removing them and safely storing them for future restoration.

We are excited about all the community interest in St. Paul's and look forward to ongoing engagement. Many thanks to all those who voted.

REMINDER: FLAG DROP BOX

At last year's Memorial Day observance hosted by William Bradford Turner Post No. 265, Garden City Fire Department Ex-Chief Larry Nedelka donated a flag collection box to the American Legion on behalf of his late parents. Frank and Joan Nedelka were once very active members of the Legion, having served as Commander and Auxiliary president respectively. The box is located next to the Gazebo on 7th Street. Residents and businesses are reminded that they have a place to properly dispose of tattered and worn American flags.

FEMA REIMBURSEMENT

The Village is finally in receipt of a \$471,040 FEMA (90%) and NYS (10%) reimbursement for the full cost of the St. Paul's roof repair. Last April crews made emergency repairs to make the building water tight. Thornton Tomasetti's June 2021 roof condition assessment report identified roof issues but subsequent wind storms caused further damage, including gaping holes, some of which measured approximately 12 feet in diameter. The Village's Finance Department, particularly Village Treasurer Irene Woo and Senior Accountant Kevin Mitchell, along with assistance from Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi and Building Superintendent Giuseppe Giovaniello, worked closely with New York State officials and FEMA representatives to secure the reimbursement.

ST. PAULS FIELD CONDITIONS

Village field conditions are improving week by week, according to Recreation Commissioner Paul Blake. The St. Paul's fields were thatched for the first time in many years. Ten truck loads worth of dead grass was removed. The fields were then seeded and aerated. Grass is growing and filling in well. When the fall season officially ends, crews will spread lime and place field covers on some of the goal mouths. At Community Park crews groomed the synthetic turf fields. "We're on the right track and seeing the results," Mr. Blake said. "Overall the fields are in better condition compared to last year."

CATHEDRAL AVENUE RAILROAD CROSSING

The Cathedral Avenue railroad crossing was closed earlier this week to enable LIRR crews to repave the south side. Back in March, approximately 20 to 25 feet of the asphalt roadway, both north and south, was adjusted to make the crossing a smooth transition for vehicles. This latest work is intended to further ensure a smoother ride for motorists.

GARDEN CITY TURKEY TROT

Long Island's largest Thanksgiving Day road race will mark its 46th anniversary this November in Garden City. Registration for the annual Garden City Turkey Trot, a longstanding community tradition, is underway at www.gcturkeytrot.com. The Turkey Trot consists of three races: the Challenger Division Race for special needs athletes, a 1.4 mile Fun Run and a 5 Mile Race. All three races start and finish in front of St. Paul's on Stewart Avenue. Pick up your race bib and race T-shirt on Wednesday night, Thanksgiving Eve, November 22, at St. Paul's between 6:00 and 8:30 p.m. Runners are encouraged to help out a fellow runner this year. On Race Day participants can buy and wear a \$30 (cash only) Kenny Strong hat to support Garden City resident Mike Kenny, who is battling brain cancer. Funds go directly towards brain cancer research and patient support.

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

- **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20** 1:30 p.m. Monday Movie Matinée: *Gigi* at the Library.
- **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20** 6:45 p.m. Beginner Adult Yoga at the Senior Center.
- **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20** 7:00 p.m. Family Craft Night at the Library. Must register.
- **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21** 9:30 a.m. Morning Pickleball at the Field House. Nominal fee. Contact the Recreation Office at 465-4075.
 - **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21** 6:30 p.m. Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at Village Hall.
 - **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22** 10:00 a.m. Chair Exercise with Felicia at the Senior Center.
 - **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22** 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball at the Field House. Nominal fee. Contact the Recreation Office at 465-4075.
- **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23** 8:30 a.m. Garden City Turkey Trot on Stewart Avenue in front of St. Paul's. Must register at www.gcturkeytrot.com.