

December 6, 2023

This time of year is filled with opportunities to come together with friends and family and as a community. I look forward to seeing many residents at the festive events in our Village over the coming weeks. There are many positive things going on in our Village, and while the Mayor's columns have been largely focused on St. Paul's, I would like to update residents on other items your Board of Trustees has been working on.

Many residents have been asking about the reopening of the 6th Street roadway between Cathedral Avenue and Cherry Valley Avenue, and I would like to provide an update. A group of us met last week at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, and the Village presented several roadway design ideas prepared by our Engineering Department. In that meeting, which included the Police Commissioner, the Traffic Commission, and the Superintendent of DPW, we emphasized the critical importance of reopening the roadway not only for the convenience of residents, but also to improve the safety of our roadways and to provide the best emergency response time for residents throughout the Village. Dean Sniffen will be bringing the plans to the Cathedral Board in early 2024, and we look forward to hearing positive feedback from the Board that would allow us to move forward on a project that would restore access.

Next week the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) will host a program on noise pollution. This is a great opportunity for residents with concerns about excessive noise from airplanes, cars, trucks or lawn equipment to hear what communities like ours are now doing and what more can be done on this important topic that affects the quality of life and health of residents.

The Traffic Commission has been working hard to address the many traffic issues in the Village. As they are addressing a record number of requests at Traffic Commission meetings and implementing recommendations from the Village-wide Traffic Calming Studies, in January the Traffic Commission will be hosting a special meeting to hear reports from our Traffic Engineering Consultants on two other traffic studies undertaken – Stewart Avenue and speed limit reduction.

On St. Paul's, we continue our work to develop a process that will allow us to reach our goal: a project at St. Paul's that preserves part or all of the building, has wide spread community support, and can be executed. I appreciate the efforts of residents who have reached out with their ideas on how we can approach this in a different manner to improve our likelihood of success. We encourage residents to stay engaged and continue to share ideas on St. Paul's. We recognize that the approach must be different from past efforts to be successful.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS, COURTESY GCPD

The holiday season is always a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people become preoccupied and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We can never be too careful, too prepared, or too aware. The Garden City Police Department wishes you a safe, happy, and peaceful holiday season and offers the following tips:

DRIVING

- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lit area and lock your vehicle. Also, close all windows.
- Avoid parking next to large vehicles, vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Avoid leaving packages or valuables inside your vehicle where they can be seen by potential thieves.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if suspicious people are in the area.
- Do not roll down your window if a stranger approaches; talk through the glass or drive away.

HOME

- Ensure pocketbooks, bags, and keys are NOT visible through windows, doors, etc.
- Ensure all doors and windows are locked when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- Ensure alarm and video surveillance systems are in good working order.
- When leaving home for extended periods, ask a neighbor or family member to watch your house.
- Have someone pick up your newspapers, and mail. In addition, have packages delivered to an alternate address where someone is available to receive them or arrange for pick-up of packages at a depot.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on automatic timers.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.
- Ensure all doors, especially patio doors, are alarmed and have additional locking devices. There is a recent trend in Nassau County in which suspects attempt to enter a residence during the overnight hours to obtain keys for vehicles parked in the driveway.

LEAVING HOME

- Plan your trip carefully and avoid getting lost by knowing the routes you will be taking.
- Tell someone when and where you are going and what time you expect to return home.
- When leaving home, leave interior and exterior lights on, and if equipped, activate your alarm system and surveillance systems. Be aware of anyone watching or following you when you leave.
- Ensure your car has a full gas tank, and keep your doors locked and windows closed.
- Do not post that you are going on vacation on social media sites.
- Ensure your surveillance systems are on and notification alerts, if equipped, are activated.

AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE (ATM)

- When using an ATM at night, choose locations that are well-lit and secure.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

SHOPPING

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. At night, shop with a friend or family member
- Dress casually and comfortably; avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- If possible, avoid carrying a purse or wallet. They are easy targets for thieves in crowded areas.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.

- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen, or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages, and stay alert at all times.
- Be sure to locate your keys before going to your car.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason.
- Beware of persons attempting to distract you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- If you have a key chain or fob with a panic button, be prepared to use it if you feel threatened.
- When leaving the shopping center, ensure that no one is following you.
- Call 911 when followed and drive directly to a Police Station or area where people are present.
- Leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter or family member if possible.
- Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping.
- Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security officer if they become separated from you.
- Ensure your children know their full name, address, and telephone number.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone and should never be left alone in the car.

CHERRY VALLEY AVENUE (FIRST STREET) CROSSWALK

The Board created a new capital project to install a crosswalk on Cherry Valley Avenue (First Street). Trustees have engaged Pratt Brothers, Inc. to construct the crosswalk, with work to be performed per the 2023 Curb, Sidewalk and Road Improvements contract.

PSEG WORK IN THE EAST

The Village has issued PSEG LI a permit to install four temporary poles on Brook Street. Crews are performing work in an existing manhole along Prospect Avenue, near Brook Street. The work in the manhole requires planned outages impacting some customers in the immediate area. The temporary poles allow PSEG LI to create a by-pass that helps limit the duration of the planned outages for impacted customers. The project could take two to three weeks.

LEAF COLLECTION

Each year the Village has a cut off time for residents and landscapers to put leaves in the street. It varies from year to year depending on when the leaves fall. Due to the warmer temps earlier in the season, leaves fell a little later this year and the LAST DAY to put leaves out to the curb for pick up will be December 11, 2023. Please have your landscape gardener take away any leaves after December 11, 2023. Do not put leaves to the curb. Homeowners who rake and clean up their own leaves on their property can bag them and put the bags out on their rubbish day. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Police Department continues to collect toys for the Annual U.S. Marine Corps *Toys for Tots* Drive. Anyone wishing to participate may deliver new unwrapped toys to the Police Department by December 18th.

POOL INTERVIEWS FOR 2024 SEASON

The Garden City Pool is holding interviews for NEW EMPLOYEES (lifeguards and attendants) for the 2024

summer positions on the following dates:

- Thursday Dec 28 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Friday Dec 29 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday Dec 30 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you worked at the Pool last summer, please come to the Recreation Office at 108 Rockaway Avenue, on the above dates, to pick up an application for rehire for this coming summer. You must be 15 years of age or older to apply. To schedule an interview please call the Recreation Office at 516 465-4075. After scheduling your interview please stop by the Recreation Office to pick up an employment application. When you come to your interview please bring the completed application. Interviews will be held at the Recreation Office at 108 Rockaway Avenue. Lifeguards must have their Nassau County Certification and be up to date on their CPR (CPR needs to be renewed yearly) prior to beginning work.

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 3:30 p.m. Village Christmas Tree Lighting and Hanukkah Festival of Lights on the Village Green

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 1:30 p.m. Movie Matinée: *Rear Window* at the Library

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 7:30 p.m. Library Board of Trustees meeting at the Library

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 9:30 a.m. Morning Pickleball at the Field House. Nominal fee. Call the Recreation Office at 465-4075 for more info.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 7:00 p.m. Teen Paint Night at the Library. Must register.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 7:30 p.m. Adult Men's Basketball at the Field House. Nominal fee. Call the Recreation Office at 465-4075 for more info.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 7:30 p.m. Environmental Advisory Board meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 7:00 p.m. Special meeting of the Traffic Commission at Village Hall and via Zoom

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 7:30 p.m. Adult Volleyball at the Field House. Nominal fee. Call the Recreation Office at 465-4075 for more info.