

December 27, 2023

I would like to wish all residents a Happy New Year! It has been an honor to serve as your Mayor since April, and I am looking forward to continuing to work with the Board of Trustees and our staff in the upcoming year to keep our Village the wonderful place we have all chosen to call home. Working together we have made significant headway in addressing traffic concerns, we are moving forward towards a decision on the St. Paul's Main Building, and environmental issues have been prioritized as our Environmental Advisory Board continues to share important information with residents on a regular basis and provide valuable advice to the Village on sustainability matters. On January 11th we will be hosting a roundtable on sustainability which has become an annual event that brings together young residents, Village volunteers and the entire community on environmental topics of interest to all. I hope to see many of you there!

ATTENTION TAXPAYERS

Second half 2023/2024 tax payments are accepted through Tuesday, January 2, 2024, without penalty. To accommodate our residents, tax payments may be left in the "letter" slot at the eastern entrance to Village Hall, if the office is closed. All payments placed in the "letter" slot before the opening for business on Wednesday, January 3rd will be accepted without penalty. Any payment postmarked January 3, 2024 or later will be subject to penalty as required by state law. Timely online Village tax payments can also be made through the Village website "Bill Payment Center" until 11:59 p.m. January 2, 2024, accessible at www.gardencityny.net. Additional fees may apply.

SUSTAINABILITY ROUNDTABLE

Please join the Garden City Environmental Advisory Board for a roundtable discussion on sustainability! The meeting will take place at Village Hall on January 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. The discussion will explore sustainability at different stages of life. Participants will address how to practice sustainability, as well as the importance of sustainability in career paths. The roundtable discussion is open to all community members interested. There will be an emphasis on volunteer and career opportunities in the growing field of sustainability. High school and college students, as well as recent graduates, or individuals involved in an environmental initiative or program, are invited to lead the discussion. Participating students will be rewarded volunteer hours. If interested please email: mcarterflanagan@gardencityny.net and/or mbharrington@gardencityny.net.

SPECIAL TRAFFIC MEETING JANUARY 11

The Traffic Commission will be holding a special meeting on January 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Garden City Public Library in the large meeting room on the lower level of the library. Creighton Manning, the Village's Consulting Traffic Engineers, will be presenting two traffic calming studies that were recently completed, both of which are available on the Village website under the Traffic Commission tab:

- Final Speed Limit Study – Study as to whether lowering the Village-wide speed limit from 30mph to 25 mph would be beneficial to traffic safety
- Final Stewart Avenue Road Diet Study – Study as to whether a road diet on the Village owned portion of Stewart Avenue (Franklin Avenue to Clinton Road) would be beneficial to traffic safety

ST. PAUL'S ADVISORY BOARD

Residents Bill Kavan, Soraya Gage, John Cantwell, Jim Apostolides and Walter Beal will serve on the St. Paul's Advisory Committee. These residents will be a great resource as we begin with the important steps needed to reach our goal of a project at St. Paul's that preserves part or all of the building, has wide-spread community support, and can be executed. As the Board of Trustees moves forward, we will be involving more resident volunteers, and the process will depend on everyone staying engaged on this issue. Our first order of business, together with village staff, is to research and find the company that is best equipped to help us most accurately develop a master plan for the St. Paul's Campus that will engage the entire community, meet identified needs, and gain community support. Simultaneously, we will be exploring other community and recreation facilities and sharing with residents what such facilities could mean to our village.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW REMOVAL

We have engaged a renowned stained glass expert to remove and safely store the stained glass windows. This was an important step to preserve the windows and avoid further deterioration. The contract with Botti Studio of Architectural Arts, Inc. for the removal of eight nave stained glass windows, three sanctuary stained glass windows, and one skylight from St. Paul's, at a cost of \$99,500, has been signed. BSAA will provide free storage at its facility for a period of 10 years at no cost to the Village. The start date is set for January 8, 2024, with completion of removal expected to take 45 days or less. On the advice of Counsel and insurance professionals, the Village has taken efforts to make sure all stained glass windows are appropriately insured before work commences. Questions have arisen about whether listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places will restrict the removal and storage of the St. Paul's stained glass windows. Counsel's research (including a discussion with Chelsea Towers, the Nassau County representative for the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation) is that, notwithstanding the listings, the Village may undertake any action with regard to the building. The one caveat is that any State or Federal grants that are specifically earmarked for a preservation purpose would probably include a covenant requiring the Village to honor any preservation purpose for which the grant is given. The removal and storage of the stained glass windows, so as to preserve them, would presumably pass any preservation test, should the Village seek to obtain grant money.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY FOR KIDS

Parks and Recreation will host a New Year's Eve party for kids on Sunday, December 31 at 12 noon in Cluett Hall. The party will feature a magic show by "The Magic of Amore," music, dancing, noisemakers and LOTS OF FUN! Admission is free but please sign up ahead of time by calling the Recreation Office at 465-4075.