

January 3, 2024

I would like to wish all residents a Happy and Healthy 2024! My New Year's Resolution as your Mayor is to develop a Master Plan for St. Paul's that saves part or all of the building by the end of 2024. The first phase will involve figuring out what our community wants, and I am convinced that this effort must be data driven with a thorough effort to survey the community, engage focus groups, and listen to stakeholders in order to be successful. Your Board of Trustees has a fiduciary duty to the Village, and moving forward with a project of this scope based on anecdotal evidence would not be acceptable. What is important to remember in this journey is that any project at St. Paul's must have widespread support because a bond resolution will need to be passed for the funding. The challenge in 2024 is identifying the project that is most likely to have the community support needed to be executed.

With the help of the Advisory Committee, we have begun identifying and reaching out to stakeholders, we are working to identify the best firm to assist us with this undertaking which will include a thorough needs assessment and statistically valid polling by an independent company, and we have committee members who are focused on researching community centers to share with residents how they serve residents in other areas and what the associated costs are to the residents.

It is an exciting time in Garden City as we are in a position to move forward towards a St. Paul's Project that preserves part or all of the building after so many years. Though residents may have different visions of the future St. Paul's, I believe our community is united in its belief that the time to find a solution is now. Please visit the updated St. Paul's page on the Village website for all the latest information on this important topic!

BRIAN PINNOLA

The Board of Trustees extends its deepest condolences to the Pinnola family on the passing of Brian. A staunch advocate for historic preservation in our Village, he will be greatly missed.

COLLECTION OF CHRISTMAS TREES AND WREATHS FOR RECYCLING

A reminder to residents who have a natural Christmas tree or wreath to dispose of, leave them at the curb on your regularly scheduled Recycling Collection Day (trees) and Rubbish Day (wreaths and garland). They will be collected by the Department of Public Works, rendered at the Village Yard and put through a wood chipper for use around trees and shrubs as mulch. Collection began Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024. Crews are moving continuously through the Village following the collection schedules. Please remove tree stands, strands of electric lights and plastic bags from the discarded trees, wreaths and garland and cooperate with your neighbors by disposing of them only on the scheduled collection days.

SUSTAINABILITY ROUNDTABLE JANUARY 10

Please join the Garden City Environmental Advisory Board for a roundtable discussion on sustainability! The meeting will take place at Village Hall and by Zoom on January 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. The roundtable discussion is open to all community members interested, and this year we will be joined by leading sustainable development educator Dr. James Groves, a faculty member in the University of Virginia Engineering School. 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

PUBLIC HEARING JANUARY 18

The Board will hold a public hearing on a Local Law to amend the code of the Village of Garden City in relation to establishing a temporary six-month moratorium on the application, acceptance or approval of building permits by Village Boards or Commissions, staff members and officials for certain retail uses in the Village of Garden City. This law is intended to give the Village time to review and study certain uses, including adult book stores, hookah lounges, tattoo parlors, smoke shops and things of that nature and determine where such uses might be permitted in the Village.

BURNING LEAVES

Earlier this week the Fire Department was alerted to a report of a rubbish fire in the north east section of the Village. Upon arrival, units found the resident burning leaves in close proximity to their home. Units extinguished the fire, and rendered the area safe. As a reminder it is against Village Code for residents to have Open Burns: No person shall burn or cause or permit to be burned in the open any matter, including but not limited to trash, rubbish, leaves, garbage, grass, refuse, trees, automobiles, rubber, railroad ties, materials resulting from demolition, wrecking or construction of buildings, materials for salvage purposes or other wastes, so as to cause the emission of an air contaminant into the atmosphere of the village.

In addition, burning leaves release irritants into the air that can cause respiratory problems and other health issues. According to the EPA, burning leaves in an open area “produces particulate matter and hydrocarbons which contain a number of toxic, irritant, and carcinogenic (cancer causing) compounds.” The microscopic particles in the leaf smoke can find their way into the deepest parts of your lungs and cause respiratory damage, impair your lungs, and even reduce the amount of air you're able to intake.

LIBRARY BOARD AT-LARGE TRUSTEES

The Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the Village for all members of the Board of Library Trustees to be appointed at-large. When first granted the charter in January 1956, the adopted resolution included a requirement there be five Trustee members from each section and one at-large. This latest resolution amends the second clause to read as follows: *WHEREAS, the establishment of the Garden City Public Library and the composition of the Board of Library Trustees was set forth by Resolution of the Board, dated January 21, 1956; and WHEREAS, this Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the Village for all members of the Board of Library Trustees to be appointed from the Village at-large; RESOLVED, that the second clause of the aforementioned resolution be amended to read as follows: FURTHER RESOLVED, that the personnel of such Board of Trustees shall comprise five members, all of whom shall be appointed from the Village at-large.*

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

- **SATURDAY, JANUARY 6** 3:00 p.m. “Teen Crafternoon: DIY Ceramic Mugs” at the Library. Registration required.
- **MONDAY, JANUARY 8** 1:30 p.m. Movie Matinee: *Oppenheimer* at the Library
- **MONDAY, JANUARY 8** 7:30 p.m. Library Board of Trustees Meeting at the Library

- **TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 2:30 p.m.** Line or Chair Dancing with Felicia at the Senior Center
- **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10 7:30 p.m.** Environmental Advisory Board Sustainability Roundtable at Village Hall and via Zoom
- **THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 1:15 p.m.** Chi Kung with Andrew at the Senior Center. Nominal fee.
- **THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 6:00 p.m.** Traffic Commission Meeting at the Garden City Public Library