

February 14, 2024

As our Mayor's Advisory Committee on St. Paul's continues to work with the Board of Trustees towards the goal of a project at St. Paul's that preserves part or all of the building, has widespread community support, and can be executed, I would like to update residents on another important matter in our Village, the ongoing efforts of the Board of Trustees to reopen the roadway extending 6th Street from Cathedral Avenue to Cherry Valley Avenue.

Since last summer, we have been communicating with the Cathedral of the Incarnation in an effort to reopen the roadway. Our Traffic Commission, including trustees Charlie Kelly, Larry Marciano, Ed Finneran and Mike Sullivan, have prioritized its reopening, and we hope to have a plan in place when we move forward with the Cathedral Avenue road diet later this year.

The roadway reopening is much more than a matter of convenience for residents traveling within the Village. It is a traffic safety issue which is why we have been working closely with the Police Commissioner, the Village Administrator and the Public Works Superintendent. Moreover, the 6th Street extension is a vital link to Rockaway Avenue and a corridor for emergency vehicles to quickly service calls throughout the Village. The roadway was initially closed due to maintenance issues, and thereafter the adjacent property was leased to the MTA/LIRR as a staging area for the Cherry Valley Avenue LIRR overpass project. Since that work was completed, we have been engaged in outreach to the Cathedral leadership regarding the reopening of the roadway offering Village support and resources. The Village Engineering Department prepared various roadway design drawings that were presented to the Cathedral leadership at a meeting in December. We were happy to hear that the Cathedral is aligned with the Village in prioritizing pedestrian safety around the Village as well as vehicular safety. We are scheduled to appear before members of the Cathedral's Chapter on March 13th to present our proposals and communicate the importance of reopening the roadway for Village safety. We are working diligently toward a solution in partnership with the Cathedral of the Incarnation and will keep you updated.

### **PSEG**

In light of several electrical outages around the Village, including a recent power surge on Kensington Road that left dozens of homes without power and a transformer fire on the campus of Adelphi University, Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi advised the Board that PSEG is investigating these incidents and following up with the Village. Residents affected by these incidents should call PSEG Customer Support at 1-800-490-0025.

### **BUDGET SESSIONS**

The Board of Trustees will conduct work sessions to review the Tentative 2024-25 Operating and Capital Budgets in person in the Village Hall Board Room and via Zoom beginning March 14, 2024, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Here is the full schedule:

- Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
  - Budget Overview
  - Building Department
  - DPW & Water
  
- Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
  - Fire
  - Police
  - Administration

- Finance
- Other Unallocated Expenses & Revenues
- Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
  - Library
  - Recreation, Pool & Tennis
  - Summary of Changes

### **EARLY VOTING**

Absentee ballot applications and early mail ballot applications are both available online on the Village website under the Business/Clerk's office (<https://www.gardencityny.net/169/Business-Clerks-Office>). Applications are also available in the lobby of Village Hall. Whether you are submitting an absentee or early mail, if you are requesting your ballot by mail, the application must be received by March 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are requesting to pick up your ballot in person at Village Hall, we must have the application by March 18<sup>th</sup>. ALL absentee or early mail ballots must be received by the close of polls, 9:00 p.m., on the day of the election, March 19<sup>th</sup>, to be counted. Ballots received after this day/time will not be counted.

### **NEW DEPUTY VILLAGE TREASURER**

The Board has appointed Yuetwa Cheng to serve as Deputy Village Treasurer. Ms. Cheng has over 15 years of finance and accounting experience in various roles. Most recently, she served as Chief Financial Officer at a global executive search firm where she performed various functions, including budgeting, forecasting, audit compliance and more. She holds an MBA in accounting as well as a CPA. "I believe she will make an excellent addition to the Village's Finance Department and we are very excited to welcome her," Village Treasurer Irene Woo said.

### **PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 7**

The Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. regarding a Local Law for maintenance of vacant buildings and establishment of vacant building and real property in default registries. We want to give the Building Department the tools to address these issues throughout the Village.

### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY FOR JANUARY**

Building Superintendent Giuseppe Giovanniello reported the following Department activity for January:

- 266 building inspections performed
- 52 permits issued
- \$82,000 in fees collected
- 62 grease trap inspections performed; received compliance for 12. This is an ongoing process throughout the year.

### **VOLUNTEER DAY AT THE GC BIRD SANCTUARY**

Join the Garden City Bird Sanctuary on Monday, February 19, at 12:00 p.m. for its first pre-season Volunteer Day. Residents will be helping get the GCBS ready for its 29th year. Volunteers are needed to help with trimming bushes and trees, wedding, removing dead shrubs and more. Contact the GCBS at [thegardencitybirdsantuary@gmail.com](mailto:thegardencitybirdsantuary@gmail.com) for more information and to sign up.

### **HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18** 9:30 a.m. Pickleball at the Field House. Nominal fee.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18** 2:45 p.m. Family Fun Time at the Field House

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20** 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Grievance Day at Village Hall.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20** 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20** 10:00 a.m. SAT/ACT Practice Exam at the Library. Must register.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20** 7:00 p.m. Adult Coloring at the Library. Must register.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22** 11:15 a.m. Mat Yoga with Maggie at the Senior Center. Call 385-8006 for further information.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23** 9:00 a.m. Spring Pastel Class at Cluett Hall. Must register.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23** 3:00 p.m. Teen Gamers Program at the Library. Must register.