

March 6, 2024

The Mayor's Advisory Committee on St. Paul's has been working along with the Trustees as we move towards a decision on the St. Paul's Main Building. I hope many residents will find time to attend one of the Community Center presentations scheduled at the Garden City Library March 16th and March 23rd!

In exploring all possible financing options for a St. Paul's project, the Village Board of Trustees requested that special real estate counsel provide a legal analysis of the St. Paul's Alliance plan to finance phase one of preserving the St. Paul's Main Building. The plan suggested an average annual cost of approximately \$400 per household.

In summary, counsel, taking a broad view of the plan, concluded it is not viable as presented. Reasons cited include:

- » The St. Paul's Alliance plan does not work without changing the parkland designation of the St. Paul's property. The BOT does not intend to nor is it considering changing the parkland designation.
- » The St. Paul's Alliance plan cannot reduce construction and labor costs. As long as St. Paul's is a Village-owned property and the project is supported in whole or in part with Village revenues, as the Alliance proposes, it will remain subject to competitive bidding and prevailing wage or higher labor costs.
- » The Village's Aaa Moody's rating allows it to borrow funds at a lower interest rate than the St. Paul's Alliance plan, principally because the Village can borrow in the municipal bond market at triple tax-exempt rates.

As we move forward, the Village BOT is committed to exploring all possible financing options and will always take seriously its fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of the residents of the Village.

### **VILLAGE ARBORIST**

New Village Arborist Joe Umana will speak at the next scheduled Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) meeting, to be held Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at Village Hall at 8:00 p.m. Please note the change in date and time. Mr. Umana has a degree in Plant Science, Horticulture and Landscape Design and maintains certifications in Arboriculture as well as Municipal Arboriculture. He will provide an update on the Village's tree planting program, the Lantern Fly, Ash Borer Beetle and the Southern Pine Beetle. He will also review plans for future plantings, specifically reviewing various species. A Q&A session will be offered following the presentation.

### **ST. PAUL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION**

Join the Mayor's St. Paul's Advisory Committee for an afternoon at the Garden City Library March 16 and March 23 at 2:00 p.m. to hear what the Committee has learned from visiting seven tri-state area community centers. Members will present how they operate, how they are funded, and most importantly, how they serve the residents of their communities. Members of the St. Paul's Advisory Committee are Walter Beal, Bill Kavan, John Cantwell, Jim Apostolides and Soraya Gage. Visit the St. Paul's page on [gardencityny.net](http://gardencityny.net) to stay up to date, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions. Submit questions to [stpaulsquestions@gardencityny.net](mailto:stpaulsquestions@gardencityny.net).

### **TREE CITY USA**

The Village of Garden City has earned recognition as a 2023 Tree City USA. The Arbor Day Foundation's program highlights a community's commitment to planting and caring for trees. Garden City is part of a network of more than 3,600 Tree City USAs with a combined total population of 155 million. This is the 33rd year Garden City has been designated as a 'Tree City.' In April 2023, the Village celebrated Arbor Day with the planting of a River Birch behind the Gazebo on the Village Green, not far from a sugar maple planted a

few years ago. A tree planting ceremony on the Village Green is being planned for April 27 to celebrate Arbor Day 2024. The Recreation and Parks Department is also gearing up for the spring tree planting cycle. According to Paul Blake, chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Cultural and Recreational Affairs, 217 new trees have already been planted, and an additional 65 trees will be planted later in the spring.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

As we approach the end of the Village's fiscal year, and the annual organizational meeting, I would like to take a moment to share with residents the opportunities to volunteer for the Village on one of the Village Boards and Commissions. These positions are an important part of our Village governance, and serving on these Boards or Commissions is an opportunity for residents to share their talents and contribute to our community in a meaningful way. Most of the terms that are expiring each year will be filled at the organizational meeting, with the exception of the Library Board where the staggered five year terms expire on December 31st of each year.

The appointments are made based on resident interest, resident qualifications, Village needs, and the absence of any conflicts or appearances of a conflict. For those who have submitted resumes in the past and were not appointed to a Board of Commission, I would ask that you contact our Village Clerk to confirm your ongoing interest and to make sure she has a current resume and letter of interest on file. If you are presently on a Board or Commission and your term is expiring, please contact the Village Clerk and advise whether you have an interest in continuing. If you do, please confirm that the Village Clerk has an updated resumé and a letter detailing your ongoing interest. While in the past there may have been a practice of continuing the same people in these positions indefinitely, I see merit in giving opportunities to new residents to participate and bring new ideas and expertise to the Boards and Commissions, though I also understand the benefit of continuity and experience particularly in certain positions. That being said, I, along with the Board of Trustees, will make the decisions recognizing the importance of the positions and in placing the candidates in the positions who we believe will best serve the Village.

We are considering expanding the Beautification Committee at the upcoming Organizational Meeting to include additional responsibilities and are hoping that we receive resumes from residents who are interested in helping with and expanding our ongoing beautification efforts throughout the Village. With progress being made towards a decision on St. Paul's and the historic Toll House in need of repairs and refurbishing, I welcome letters of interest and resumes from residents with passion and interest in our Village's history. Resumes and letters of interest should be emailed to Village Clerk Kelly Galanek at [kgalanek@gardencityny.net](mailto:kgalanek@gardencityny.net). The following Boards and Commissions have openings effective April 1, 2024:

**Architectural Design Review Board:** This Board examines the exterior design of buildings for the purpose of maintaining appropriate standards of appearance with respect to the specific buildings and their relationship to their surroundings. Seven members of the Board are appointed for three-year terms.

**Civic Beautification:** Working with the Village Arborist, the Committee assists in selecting the type and placement of flowers and trees on the Village's many public properties and pursuing the long-held goal of making the Village an official arboretum.

**Planning Commission:** This seven-member Commission is appointed for terms of three years. The group reviews plans for the development of vacant areas, streets, parks, and other public places, and subdivisions of private property to assure consistency with established community standards. With the exception of a one-family dwelling on a single plot, the Planning Commission also performs site plan reviews for all new buildings, additions to buildings, altered land use activities, and projects containing more than one home. The Commission also conducts studies and is advisory to the Board of Trustees on matters relating to zoning,

parking, and other issues.

**Board of Ethics:** The Board of Ethics recognizes that there are rules of ethical conduct for public officers and employees which must be observed if a high degree of moral conduct is to be obtained and if public confidence is to be maintained in our unit of local government. This Board ensures that all Village Officials and Employees are conducting themselves in such a manner. This Board is appointed by the Mayor.

**Recreation Commission:** This Board must have at least five members but can have up to eight members. The Commissioners oversee the development of the Village's Recreation Program.

**Environmental Advisory Board:** The Environmental Advisory Board is responsible to the Board of Trustees and reports on environmental matters affecting the Village. The Board can have at least six but not more than eight members appointed to four-year terms. The Chairperson is a member of the Board of Trustees. The Public Works superintendent serves as Recording Secretary.

Thank you to all the residents who are volunteering for the Village and to those looking to get more involved!

#### **2024 VILLAGE ELECTION: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

The General Village Election for 2024 will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. The polls will be open from 12 Noon to 9:00 p.m. in the evening and will be held at the St. Paul's Field House. The names of all those who are running for Village office is as follows:

##### **For A Better Garden City Party**

Trustee  
Two-Year Term  
Charles P. Kelly

Trustee  
Two-Year Term  
Richard A. Williams

Trustee  
Two-Year Term  
Michael J. Sullivan

Trustee  
Two-Year Term  
Lawrence N. Marciano, Jr.

##### **Community Agreement Party**

Trustee  
Two-Year Term  
Vinny Muldoon

Trustee  
Two-Year Term  
Judy Courtney

Trustee

Two-Year Term  
Jessica Tai

Trustee  
Two-Year Term  
Bruce A. Torino

### **Common Ground**

Trustee  
Two-Year Term  
Larry Nedelka

### **EARLY VOTING**

It's never been easier to vote in the Village Election scheduled for March 19, 2024. Absentee ballot applications and early mail ballot applications are both available online on the Village website under the Business/Clerk's office. Applications are also available in the lobby of Village Hall. Whether you are submitting an absentee or early mail application, if you are requesting your ballot by mail, the application must be received by March 12. If you are requesting to pick up your ballot in person at Village Hall, we must have the application by March 18. 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, to be counted. Ballots received after this day/time will not be counted.

### **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**

On Sunday, March 10 (Daylight Saving Time), New Yorkers will set their clocks forward one hour. The Garden City Fire Department in conjunction with Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) is urging everyone to check their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors at that time. Homeowners with alarms that have sealed, non-removable batteries should test the alarms to see if they are functional and check their expiration dates. Alarms equipped with removable batteries should have their batteries replaced and then test the alarm. Smoke alarm tips from FASNY and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

- Test alarms at least once a month by using the test button.
- If you have an alarm with a removable battery, be sure to check the batteries every six months, and change the batteries every year. If a battery is starting to lose its power, the unit will usually chirp to warn you. Do NOT disable the unit.
- Vacuum or blow out any dust that might accumulate in the unit.
- Never borrow a battery from an alarm to use somewhere else.
- Never paint a smoke or CO alarm.
- Install at least one smoke alarm on every floor of your home, including the basement, and in, or near each sleeping area.
- Smoke alarms should not be installed near a window because drafts could interfere with their operation.
- Families should also develop and practice a home fire escape plan.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for testing smoke alarms and replacing the batteries.

For more information on smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, and other information on fire safety and prevention, visit [www.gcfdny.com](http://www.gcfdny.com) | [www.fasny.com](http://www.fasny.com) | [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

### **HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY**

- **MONDAY, MARCH 11** 1:30 p.m. Movie Matinee: *A League of Their Own* at the

Library

- **TUESDAY, MARCH 12** 11:15 a.m. Chair Yoga with Maggie at the Senior Center
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 12** 8:00 p.m. EAB Meeting with special guest Village Arborist Joe Umana at Village Hall
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 12** 7:00 p.m. An Old Fashioned Irish Sing Along with Kevin Westley at the Library. Must register.
- **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13** 10:00 a.m. Exercise with Felicia at the Senior Center
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 14** 7:00 p.m. Piano Recital and Lecture at the Library
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 14** 7:30 p.m. Budget Work Session I at Village Hall and via Zoom
- **SATURDAY, MARCH 16** 11:00 a.m. Volunteer Day at the Garden City Bird Sanctuary