

February 22, 2024

The Mayor's Advisory Committee on St. Paul's continues to work at a rapid pace 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. This update on their progress illustrates that *It's Different This Time!*

What has the Committee accomplished so far?

1. Interviewed key stakeholders in town to make sure everyone has a voice when it comes to the future of St. Paul's and all these voices are heard during the upcoming outreach.
2. Identified and started interviewing companies to assess our community needs and survey residents.
3. Visited 7 outstanding Community Centers in the tri-state area and learned how much these centers enrich the lives of residents and bring multiple generations of people together.

What's coming next?

1. Engage consultant to assess needs and survey the community to learn:
  - a. What residents want
  - b. What parts of the building residents treasure most
  - c. What residents are willing to pay to preserve part or all of the building
2. Present to the public what we learned about how community centers enrich the lives of residents and what programs work best
3. With this important data, start the creative path towards a re-imaged St. Paul's. Along the way we will continue to share the possibilities and the costs so residents are fully informed and can vote on the bond referendum to make the project a reality.

Thank you to the talented committee members who are volunteering so much of their time to this effort, and also to the many residents who have been offering to help. The support of the Board of Trustees in moving this forward has been steadfast, and Trustee engagement at each step is essential for success. It is only by working together as a community that we will be able to reach the goal that has been set, and we are off to a great start!

### **SEVENTH STREET BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS**

Village Trustees Ed Finneran and Michele Harrington have been working since early last summer on efforts to address an issue the Board of Trustees is committed to - maintaining the beauty of our downtown area. They have been collaborating with John Wilton of the Chamber of Commerce and Village staff in these efforts. They shared an update at the Board of Trustees meeting this week. Their outreach continues, and will include contacting landlords and tenants of the businesses throughout our busy downtown. Thank you Trustees Finneran and Harrington for your ongoing efforts.

### **SEVENTH STREET CAMPAIGN ENFORCEMENT**

The Garden City Police Department will be conducting a month-long campaign to improve the safety of pedestrians and motorists in the business district by enforcing violations of U-turns on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, and illegal left turns from Franklin Avenue into Parking Field #7S, which is located South of 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **CLUETT HALL EXTERIOR RENOVATIONS**

The Board created a new capital project and engaged the professional services of Sek Designs to make exterior renovations to Cluett Hall. The renovations, including new railings and repairs to the ADA ramp and exterior steel emergency exit staircase, will help to make the building more accessible, safe and updated.

### **LEAD SERVICE LINES**

The Water Department is creating an inventory of all water service line materials within the Village by October 2024. The Village is asking residents and businesses to fill out a quick survey. You can access the form from your cell phone/tablet by entering the following URL link in a web browser: <https://arcg.is/PnDCn>. We recommend that you use your cell phone or tablet as you will be asked to take a photo of your water service line. The form provides information on where to identify your material as well as material type information. Your participation will help the Village save resources in not having to review additional historical documentation as part of the lead service line identification program. The Village has waived all permit fees within the Public Works and Building Departments related to water service line replacement until May 2024. Residents who have lead service lines are encouraged to take advantage of this and have their lead service lines replaced.

### **PARK DESIGNATION**

The Board has authorized Village Counsel to create park designation resolutions for Tullamore Park, Hemlock Park, Hilton Park and Strawberry Field. In January, Trustees designated the Franklin Mews property, along with Norris Park, Stewart Manor and Triangle Park, as parkland for the enjoyment of residents of the Village for park and recreation purposes.

### **WINTER STORM RESPONSE**

Earlier this month a winter storm dumped 5+ inches of snow on Garden City. There were approximately 45 pieces of equipment - large/medium and small trucks as well as several payloaders and a backhoe loader - working during the snow event. After the plowing operation ended, crews began salting roads and parking lots again the following morning, making sure schools, parking fields and all other Village roads were safe. Approximately 500 tons of salt was used for this storm. Employees from all divisions of Public Works took part in cleanup efforts, including crews from the Street, Sanitation and Water Departments, as well as Parks and Recreation, which works in close cooperation with the Department of Public Works during snow removal. In addition to clearing out Recreation facilities such as St. Paul's School, the Senior Center and Community Park, Parks and Recreation crews also helped clear parking lots and sidewalks throughout the Village during the storm. During the course of the storm, mechanics at the Village Garage were on hand for the duration of the operation in order to keep plows and equipment fully functional. There were miscellaneous breakdowns throughout the day and night that were repaired in the shop. Crews also responded to road calls to keep the fleet up and running. The Fire Department initiated a weather standby throughout the duration of the winter storm, Chief Matthew Pearn said, and responded to one carbon monoxide call during this timeframe. Due to the advance warning of the storm, traffic volume was light. The Police Department responded to five auto accidents, three alarms, two dangerous conditions, and one fire call, according to Commissioner Keneth Jackson.

### **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.

### **BUDGET WORK 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 14th, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

- Budget Overview
- Building Department
- DPW & Water

**Wednesday, March 20th, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

- Fire
- Police
- Administration
- Finance
- Other Unallocated Expenses & Revenues

**Thursday, March 28th, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

- Library
- Recreation, Pool & Tennis
- Summary of Changes

**HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY**

- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25** 9:30 a.m. Pickleball at the Field House. Nominal fee.
- **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25** 2:45 p.m. Family Fun Time at the Field House
- **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26** 1:30 p.m. Movie Matinee: *Casablanca* at the Library
- **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26** 4:00 p.m. Friendship Bracelets for Community Service at the Library. Must register.
- **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26** 7:00 p.m. Hands-only NYU Langone CPR training at the Library. Must register.
- **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27** 6:30 p.m. Architectural Design Review Board meeting at Village Hall
- **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28** 1:00 - 7:00 p.m. Blood Drive at the Library.
- **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29** 11:15 a.m. Mat Yoga with Maggie at the Senior Center. Call 385-8006 for further information.
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 1** 9:00 a.m. Spring Pastel Class at Cluett Hall. Must register.