

October 9, 2024

I hope you had a chance to watch the very interesting presentation by Brandstetter Carroll (“BCI”) on the recent recreation survey. If you have not, it is available on the Village [website \(https://www.gardencityny.net/291/Path-to-a-St-Pauls-Master-Plan-in-2024\)](https://www.gardencityny.net/291/Path-to-a-St-Pauls-Master-Plan-in-2024)

I look forward to seeing BCI’s work shape a 10-year Recreation Master Plan for the Village that continues our commitment to community programming for all ages. Decisions made by Village leaders decades ago established our community as a leader in recreation programming, and it is a large part of what draws so many to Garden City and keeps us here.

Whether a solution for the St. Paul’s Main Building, which has been vacant for over three decades, will be a part of that plan is a question many residents are asking. As expected, the recreation survey did not answer the question of whether there is community support for a project at St. Paul’s that preserves part or all of the building, and it was never expected to. It did, however, identify facilities and programming of interest to residents, but that alone does not hold the answer.

While the Board of Trustees initially planned to survey residents on St. Paul’s sentiment and willingness to fund a project at the same time we surveyed residents on recreation, Trustees expressed an interest in holding off on the St. Paul’s survey until after we had results and analysis of the recreation survey. This allows the information we learn about resident interest in programming and facilities to help inform the St. Paul’s survey.

Now that BCI has completed their analysis of the recreation survey results, they have provided two proposed versions of an updated St. Paul’s survey, and the St. Paul’s Steering Committee and Board of Trustees have been working hard to help finalize this survey.

The survey will provide information on the types of projects that are most supported by residents and provide an idea of a budget the community would support for a St. Paul’s project.

For those who feel fatigued by surveys, I would like you all to understand that at no time in the last three decades of trying to find a solution for St. Paul’s have we EVER done a professional survey of the community to gather statistically valid data on what residents most want to see at St. Paul’s, nor have we EVER done a professional survey to gather statistically valid data to determine what residents would pay for the different options. A project informed by an understanding of ALL residents’ wants and needs for St. Paul’s is what is different this time.

The non-partisan Mayor’s Committee I have been working with over the last year identified this path as the best way to find a solution for our community and St. Paul’s, if one exists. This approach was supported by a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees when we hired BCI.

I expect the survey will be on the agenda for approval at the next Board meeting in October, and I sincerely hope we are able to approve a recommended survey and at long last get on a community-driven path to a solution for St. Paul’s.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE VILLAGE**

Our Village government is led by dedicated volunteers, from the Mayor and Village Trustees to the many members of our important Boards and Commissions. There are openings now and in the coming months on the following Boards: Architectural Design Review Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and

Library Board. More information can be found about these positions on the [Boards and Commissions page](#). The Environmental Advisory Board is also forming a subcommittee on airplane noise that is looking for volunteers. If interested, please send a resume and letter of interest by October 30th to Village Clerk Kelly Galanek at [kgalanek@gardencityny.net](mailto:kgalanek@gardencityny.net).

### **CONCERNED ABOUT HIGH WATER BILLS?**

Most gardens and lawns do not require irrigation after mid-September. Oftentimes systems are turned off later in the fall than necessary. The Water Department suggests the following accommodation during the fall: Turn the system off or reduce the zone run times. When your irrigation professional arrives he simply needs to drain the system. Water use is three times higher in the summer than during non-irrigation months. The Garden City Water Department encourages residents to comply with the Village's schedule for lawn watering. Irrigation is permitted on alternate odd and even-numbered days as mandated by Nassau County. Homeowners with odd-numbered addresses may water their lawns only on odd-numbered days. Homeowners with even-numbered addresses, or premises with no numbers, are permitted to water their lawns only on even-numbered days. Residents are reminded that watering hours are from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. We also strongly encourage residents to install smart irrigation controllers. Clock-based irrigation controllers set a schedule that turns your system on as the weather gets warmer and/or dryer. Likewise, the system will not run when it rains or is cooler. Smart irrigation controllers connect to the nearest weather station via the internet. You can also control the system using your smartphone. WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers provide a smart way to reduce irrigation that occurs when plants don't need it. There are two types of controllers that can earn the WaterSense label: weather-based irrigation controllers can help reduce water waste by adjusting your irrigation schedule based on local weather and landscape conditions. Soil moisture-based irrigation controllers, also known as soil moisture sensors, water plants based on their needs by measuring the amount of moisture in the soil and tailoring the irrigation schedule accordingly.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY - STRANGER DANGER**

This is the final part of the four-part series of articles by the Garden City Police Department addressing Back to School Safety Issues. The previous three articles addressed Safe Driving Practices, School Bus Safety, and Pedestrian/Bicyclist Safety. This week's article will cover Stranger Danger. Parents, Grandparents, Guardians, and Teachers are encouraged to use this article to help teach their children about Stranger Danger.

Back to School "Stranger Danger":

- It is essential to explain to children that strangers can look like ordinary people, not monsters. A stranger is someone that you do not know very well or do not know at all.
- Experts recommend that parents or guardians role-play with their children about how someone might approach them, such as offering candy, asking for help, or if they'd like to come and meet their new puppy. You should teach your child to give a firm "NO" and walk away. When you role-play with your children, keep it matter-of-fact and calm so you do not overly frighten them. Part of protecting children is not just pointing out dangers but also teaching them confidence; this will help them to make good decisions in potentially harmful situations.
- Teach your children to trust their instincts. They should trust that feeling in their gut that tells them if something is safe or not. You can describe it as the feeling in your tummy that gives you butterflies if something seems wrong.
- Tell your children never to approach a vehicle or someone asking for directions; adults do

not need advice from children.

- There is safety in numbers; whenever possible, do not walk alone.
- Carry your cell phone for use in emergencies.
- NEVER accept rides from strangers.
- Parents develop a secret password that only your family knows. Tell your kids they should NEVER go with anyone unless they know the secret password. Tell your children that they should NEVER share this secret password with anyone.
- If you think someone is following you, go to the nearest school official, business, residence, or Police Officer for help.
- If vehicle occupants harass you, you should turn around and walk in the opposite direction. The driver will have to turn around or back up to follow you.
- When you are approaching your home, have your door key ready so you can enter immediately.
- Teach your children that if someone attempts to take them or grab them, they should fall to the ground and start screaming and kicking, bite if necessary, and do anything it takes. They should make as much noise as possible and create as much diversion as possible to draw other people's attention to the area.
- If you think something is unusual, report it to the police immediately. Please do not wait until it is too late.
- Information the police need is:
  - The vehicle's license plate number, make/model, and color.
  - Description of the subject: gender, race, approximate age, weight, and height.
  - Description of the subject's clothing.
  - Length / color of the subject's hair; any unusual marks, scars, tattoos, jewelry, hat worn, glasses, etc.
  - The subject's last travel direction; note whether it is on foot, by bicycle, or by vehicle.

Strangers often use the internet to prey on their victims. Keep home computers in a busy area of the house, and periodically check your child's computer, cell phone, etc. Children should never give out their name, address, phone number or school name. Never arrange face-to-face meetings with anyone they meet online. Never go into chat rooms unless their parents say it is okay. Never open emails from someone they do not know, and never go to links they do not recognize. Children should always tell an adult if they see something on the internet that makes them feel uncomfortable.

The Garden City Police Department encourages everyone to take advantage of these safety tips and wishes everyone a safe and healthy school year.

### **HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11** 3:30 p.m. Teen Gamers at the Library. Must register.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11** 6:30 p.m. Haunted Hike at the Garden City Bird Sanctuary

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15** 7:00 p.m. Yoga with Kimberly at the Library. Must register.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15** 7:00 p.m. Teen Paint Night at the Library. Must register.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16** 6:30 p.m. Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at Village Hall

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17** 7:30 p.m. Village Board of Trustees Meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18** 10:00 a.m. Defensive Driving Course at the Library. Must register.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19** 10:00 a.m. Senior Center Open House on Golf Club Lane

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20** 2:00 p.m. Red Hot Mamas performing selections from Broadway shows, old time favorites and current popular tunes at the Library

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20** 2:00 p.m. Halloween event featuring Casey Carle's Bubble Mania. Wear a costume. Must register.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 21** 7:30 p.m. Library Board of Trustees Meeting in the Library's lower level

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27** 5:00 p.m. Trick-Or-Treat through creepy cottages for a Halloween-themed path into a Haunted Village at 108 Rockaway Avenue

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30** 11:15 a.m. Senior Dance Performance Group at the Senior Center. Must register.