

November 13, 2024

Regrettably, the present BOT has voted to indefinitely postpone the release of the St Paul's survey. I sincerely apologize to all who have been following and were looking forward to a new professional approach to a St. Paul's project that could have identified a project at St. Paul's with community support - something that has eluded Village leaders for decades.

The team of professionals from BCI worked incredibly hard and with perseverance and patience to find a survey that would provide data sufficient to identify a project. It was my hope that with this survey we would learn what you, the residents of our Village, really want and will pay for. BCI's recommendation and the rationale for their recommendations were summarized 13 minutes and 56 seconds into last week's BOT meeting, which can be viewed on the St. Paul's page of the Village website (<https://www.gardencityny.net/291/Path-to-a-St-Pauls-Master-Plan-in-2024>). Resident comments were heard beginning at 02:02, and a lengthy Trustee discussion with further comments from BCI begins at 02:25.

Trustee Chester and I were the only members of the Board who supported moving forward with Version 12 of this professional survey at the meeting. We were also the only two members of the Board of Trustees to vote for a resolution put forth at the June 20th meeting pledging a community-driven approach to finding a solution for St. Paul's relying on statistically valid data. So, we find ourselves back in the same spot we have been in for decades. It was a sad night for our Village.

I am focused now on what the best path forward is, working with a new board with different ideas on the best approach. I will work hard to make sure the excellent work on the Recreation Master Plan continues, as we can all agree on how important the Recreation and Parks Department is to making our Village such a special community.

More Detail on Impasse

The impasse on Version 12 hinged largely on a desire expressed by several Trustees to provide price ranges for the different options included in the survey. The consultants explained that they do not recommend this be done because we simply do not have price ranges to provide. The survey they are recommending instead asks residents the maximum annual tax increase residents would support for the different options. This would allow them to create a budget which would be a factor in picking the program. They explained that in order to get price ranges to share you need to have a program for the inside of the building, and the surveying work they have undertaken on our behalf is to learn what should be part of that program. While they do not recommend price ranges at all, BCI went on to explain that if the BOT really wanted to do that, they would need to come up with a hypothetical program and then have a professional company price that program in the different construction project types (full preservation, partial preservation and façadism). This way residents would be comparing apples to apples.

POLICE REVIEW SAFETY MEASURES

At the request of the Board of Trustees, the Garden City Police Department conducted a review of the courtyard and alley area located in the southeast portion of Parking Field 7N. This area is private property that is open to the public and was the recent site of suspicious activity and is often frequented by youths, particularly on Friday evenings. The Police Department inspected the area with the Village's camera consultant and reviewed the possibility of adding cameras and license plate readers on Village property that will help monitor the courtyard and the adjacent driveway from 7th Street. The Community Policing Officer also contacted a representative of the property owner to discuss security issues in this area and was advised that the company is currently reviewing plans to improve the lighting and camera coverage for the courtyard

and alley as well as trimming their trees to enhance visibility. In an effort to improve safety conditions in other nearby areas that are often associated with youth activity, the Police Department is reviewing the possibility of placing additional lights and cameras in the Village grassy areas adjacent to the northeast section of Parking Field 7N and the southeast section of Parking Field 8.

OCTOBER POLICE ACTIVITY

During the month of October, the Garden City Police Department responded to 2,252 service calls, including:

- 82 case investigations
- 29 arrests
- 154 medical calls
- 104 auto accidents
- 1,344 traffic tickets
- 2,162 parking tickets
- 4 appearance tickets
- 15 vehicle impounds

TOLL HOUSE

The Toll House renovation project is 90 percent complete and is expected to be completed by the end of November. The project kicked off in September. The scope of work includes a full roof removal and install; painting of the building's exterior and interior, window caulking, column restoration, new carpeting, LED lights and more.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT IS HIRING

We are looking for anyone 16 years or older to hire for our programs. We have an after-school program that would involve playing organized games with children, led by one of the Recreational Leaders. The program runs December 3 - February 13, on Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Thursdays from 3:30-6:00 p.m. You can do one or all days. In the summer, we also have a summer program that runs at the five Village parks. We have arts and crafts and sports all day. If either of those sound like something you may be interested in, contact sceballos@gardencityny.net, or visit the Cottages at 108 Rockaway Avenue for an interest form.

SANITATION COLLECTION - THANKSGIVING WEEK

Residents are reminded that there will be no garbage pickup on Thursday, November 28, 2024. The Holiday Week Collection Schedule will be as follows:

GARBAGE

Western Half of Village (West of Rockaway Avenue): Monday and Friday

Eastern Half of Village (East of Rockaway Avenue): Tuesday and Saturday

RUBBISH

Wednesday, November 27

RECYCLING

Residents scheduled for recycling on Thursday, November 28th, are asked to put their recyclables out on Thursday, December 5th.

NEW POOL PLAYGROUND

The Board of Trustees has approved the purchase of new playground equipment for the Garden City Pool, including a play unit for ages 2-5, play unit for ages 5-12, demolition and disposal of old equipment,

installation of new equipment, installation of new synthetic turf safety surface, and freight. Total cost of the project is \$246,962.08. While this project is identified in the Pool account, Trustees have approved use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to pay for the purchase. The existing playground equipment served patrons well for the least 25 years.

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18 1:30 p.m. Movie Matinée: *Mystic Pizza* at the Library

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18 7:30 p.m. Library Board of Trustees Meeting at the Library

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 6:30 p.m. Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting at Village Hall

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 7:00 p.m. Yoga With Kimberly at the Library. Must register.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball for residents at Field House. Nominal fee.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 7:30 p.m. Adult Volleyball for residents at the Field House. Nominal fee.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 6:00 p.m. Traffic Commission Meeting at Village Hall and via zoom

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 2:00 p.m. Christmas Sing-A-Long with George Salem at the Senior Center

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 11:00 a.m. Trip to Old Westbury Gardens for a Christmas Cream Tea and Tour. \$22.50." Make a reservation at the Senior Center by November 22.