

December 6, 2024

I am glad to hear that the six trustees who have been working on the St Paul's Survey are no longer indefinitely postponing it, and that they plan to have a survey on the agenda for the December 12th meeting. However, it appears they are deviating from the advice of the excellent professionals who we have hired and who have a track record of success with bond votes on large projects.

There are clearly differences in approach between me and members of the Board of Trustees. As your Mayor, I am committed to always looking out for the best interests of the Village on St. Paul's and all other matters, and I will continue to do so.

Now is the time to fully understand the two major differences between me and other trustees on the survey and the impact on our likelihood of success.

1 Including All St. Paul's Options is Key to Success in Finding a St. Paul's Solution -

A data-driven approach is the way to take out bias and get to the truth on what St. Paul's project residents would support. Contrary to information that has been reported, 62 percent of the voting residents did not vote to save all of St. Paul's. There is no mandate to preserve the building, far from it. The 62 percent includes supporters of full preservation, partial preservation, façadism and residents who simply want to learn more before making a decision. Of course, demolition should appear in the survey, as the professionals recommended. We all know 38 percent of residents voted for demolition in last year's public opinion poll. Omitting both demolition and façadism pushes this taxpayer-funded survey into a truly questionable category. Some type of façadism is quite possibly the St. Paul's project which preserves part of the building with the most community support.

2 Cost Estimates Should Not Be In the Survey - The idea of adding "cost estimates"

when we know there are no reliable cost estimates further weakens the validity of any survey. If the six trustees think having cost estimates is important for residents to express their preferences, it is important that the cost estimates are real. As the professionals explained, the St Paul's survey was to be used to develop a program and budget that would lead us to the stage of identifying a project and having real cost estimates. We simply are not there.

If in fact the majority of the BOT limits the options available to residents on the survey, and they no longer plan to allow the professionals to use reliable data to identify a project with community support, I would ask the trustees to detail their plan for all residents to understand. Residents should be told what will be done after residents have completed the survey. If we learn that there is not majority support for any of the three alternatives presented by the six trustees (mothballing, full preservation or partial preservation with an additional building added) what is next? One trustee said residents favoring demolition can choose no support for all the options presented and their voices will be heard. Does that mean the building will be demolished? The commitment to a new community-driven approach seems to have been lost. Instead, the six trustees are merely asking for your input on the limited options acceptable to them.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEARING DECEMBER 9 - LV SANDS PROPOSED CASINO - YOUR VOICE MATTERS

I hope you can join me and your Village Trustees this Monday, December 9, at 5:00 p.m. at 1550 Franklin Avenue at the Nassau County Legislature Building to voice our serious concerns about the environmental impact of a Las Vegas Sands Casino project at the Nassau Hub. Nassau County is currently in the Environmental Review Process, formally known as the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process, a necessary step in Las Vegas Sands' quest for a casino license at the Nassau Hub. A copy of the

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Las Vegas Sands' casino is available on the Nassau County [website](#) and a printed copy is available for residents to review at the Garden City Public Library. For more information visit www.nocasinonassau.org.

LEAF COLLECTION

As of Monday, December 9, 2024 residents and landscapers are NOT permitted to dispose of leaves in the road. Residents can bag their leaves and put them out on Rubbish day or bring them to the Village Transfer station "Dump Area," which is open Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (closing 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch during the week); and Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Crews are currently still collecting leaves and will be making a few more passes, weather permitting.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Wreaths Across America is Saturday, December 14. The ceremony will take place from 11:00-11:15 a.m. at the 7th Street Memorial. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will lay wreaths at each memorial.

OPERATION SANTA

The Garden City Volunteer Fire Department is excited to announce that Operation Santa will be spreading holiday cheer throughout the Village during the week of December 16th! Keep an eye out as Santa rides through our neighborhoods on a firetruck, greeting families and spreading the magic of the season. Stay tuned for updates and detailed schedules coming soon.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Garden City Police Department is proud to announce its participation in the Annual U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Drive, a cherished initiative that aims to bring joy and support to children in need during the holiday season. This year, the Police Department is actively collecting new, unwrapped toys to ensure that less fortunate children receive gifts this Christmas. We invite all community members to donate toys at our Department Headquarters; the last day for collection is Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

VILLAGE TREE LIGHTING AND HANUKKAH FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

The Village and Chamber of Commerce will hold the annual Village Tree Lighting and Hanukkah Festival of Lights this Sunday, December 8, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Holiday music will be provided by the Music Academy Foundation and the Garden City High School Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Broadway Bound dancers will also perform. The event will also feature a special visit from Santa himself. The Garden City High School National Art Honor Society will be selling hand-painted ornaments with winter and holiday themes.

HOLIDAY SEASON SAFETY TIPS, COURTESY GCPD

With the holiday season upon us, the Garden City Police Department emphasizes the importance of safety and awareness amidst the festive hustle and bustle. While this time of year is meant for celebration and joy, it is also a period when individuals can become more vulnerable to theft and holiday-related crimes. To ensure that the community enjoys a safe, happy, and peaceful holiday season, the Garden City Police Department offers the following safety tips:

DRIVING

- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lit area and lock your vehicle. Also, close all windows.
- Avoid parking next to large vehicles, vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Avoid leaving packages or valuables inside your vehicle where they can be seen by potential thieves.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.

- Do not approach your car alone if suspicious people are in the area.
- Do not roll down your window if a stranger approaches; talk through the glass or drive away.

HOME

- Ensure pocketbooks, bags, and keys are NOT visible through windows, doors, etc.
- Ensure all doors and windows are locked when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- Ensure alarm and video surveillance systems are in good working order.
- When leaving home for extended periods, ask a neighbor or family member to watch your house.
- Have someone pick up your newspapers, and mail. In addition, have packages delivered to an alternate address where someone is available to receive them or arrange for pick-up of packages at a depot.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on automatic timers.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.
- Ensure all doors, especially patio doors, are alarmed and have additional locking devices. There is a recent trend in Nassau County in which suspects attempt to enter a residence during the overnight hours to obtain keys for vehicles parked in the driveway.

LEAVING HOME

- Plan your trip carefully and avoid getting lost by knowing the routes you will be taking.
- Tell someone when and where you are going and what time you expect to return home.
- When leaving home, leave interior and exterior lights on, and if equipped, activate your alarm system and surveillance systems. Be aware of anyone watching or following you when you leave.
- Ensure your car has a full gas tank, and keep your doors locked and windows closed.
- Do not post that you are going on vacation on social media sites.
- Ensure your surveillance systems are on and notification alerts, if equipped, are activated.

AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE (ATM)

- When using an ATM at night, choose locations that are well-lit and secure.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

SHOPPING

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. At night, shop with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably; avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- If possible, avoid carrying a purse or wallet. They are easy targets for thieves in crowded areas.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay for purchases with a credit card or debit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen, or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages, and stay alert at all times.
- Be sure to locate your keys before going to your car.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason.
- Beware of persons attempting to distract you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- If you have a key chain or fob with a panic button, be prepared to use it if you feel threatened.
- When leaving the shopping center, ensure that no one is following you.
- Call 911 when followed and drive directly to a Police Station or area where people are present.
- Leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter or family member if possible.
- Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping.
- Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security officer if they become separated from you.
- Ensure your children know their full name, address, and telephone number.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone and should never be left alone in the car.

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

- **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6** 3:00 p.m. Chess4Community at the Senior Center. All ages and levels welcome.
- **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6** 6:00 p.m. Western Property Owners Association Tree Lighting in the park at the south side of the New Hyde Park Road Business District
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8** 3:30 p.m. Village Christmas Tree Lighting and Hanukkah Festival of Lights on the Village Green
 - **MONDAY, DECEMBER 9** 5:00 p.m. Proposed Sands Casino public hearing at 1550 Franklin Avenue
 - **MONDAY, DECEMBER 9** 7:30 p.m. Library Board of Trustees meeting at the Library
 - **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10** 11:30 a.m. Lotus Fitness workshop at the Senior Center
 - **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10** 2:00 p.m. Holiday lights lecture with Art and Susan Zuckerman at the Library
 - **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12** 2:00 p.m. Christmas Sing-A-Long with George Salem at the Senior Center
 - **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12** 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom
 - **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14** 1:00 p.m. Sports lecture with Les Wolff at the Library. Must register.
 - **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15** 2:00 p.m. Rhonda Kay and the Backstage Trio perform at the Library
 - **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17** 1:30 p.m. A Day at the Movies: *Elf* at the Senior Center. Register by calling 516-385-8006.
 - **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22** 1:00 p.m. *Twas the Night Before Christmas* live performance by the Sunrise Theatre Company in Cluett Hall. Make reservations by calling 516 465-4075.