

January 15, 2025

Some may wonder how it is that after I have put so much time and effort into moving our Village towards identifying a St Paul's project that can be executed I will not vote for the current survey.

Simply stated, the new survey as drafted by six trustees is a far cry from the professional survey recommended by the consultants and will not help us to learn what project at St. Paul's would have the most community support. We hired a great consultant with a track record of success, but rejecting their advice and approving this seriously flawed survey we are taking away their ability to gather the data needed to identify the project that would have the most community support and could be executed. We had a chance to reach the end of the toxic debate over the St. Paul's building that has caused serious harm to the Village, something I think our community needs desperately.

With the final version of the survey, I feel we as a Village have once again gone off course with regard to being solutions-oriented about the St Paul's Main Building. This is not a personal attack on anyone serving on the Board of Trustees, and I hope none of them take it that way. As your Mayor I feel strongly that I need to deliver this message to the community, and I will continue to speak with candor even when it may be difficult.

Residents should ask themselves why their elected officials would find it objectionable to professionally survey the residents they represent to learn what type of project most residents would support and how much they would be willing to pay? What could possibly be wrong with putting out a true survey that is unbiased?

If Trustee Muldoon's preservation project is the plan most supported by the community, we would have learned that through the unbiased survey. Faced with an opportunity to gather reliable data on this difficult topic for the first time since we purchased the building in 1993, the majority of the Board have chosen instead to put out this biased survey with only the options they will accept, and the Village will not get any new direction on the type of project residents would support.

During the last months of my term, I plan to focus on completing some of the other initiatives I have been working on during my time serving the community. Many great things have been happening in Village government during the last three and a half years and I urge the others on the BOT to not allow St. Paul's to be a distraction from what matters most - focusing on quality of life issues and remembering what drew residents to choose our beautiful Village as their home.

### **DEIS COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE JANUARY 21**

Please consider joining your neighbors in advocating on behalf of our wonderful Village as the LV Sands Casino continues to press to bring the second largest casino in North America to the Nassau Hub. A grassroots organization (Say No to the Casino) has a [website](https://www.nocasinonassau.org) [<https://www.nocasinonassau.org>] with extensive information about the negative impacts of a potential Casino in Nassau County, and they have a [link](mailto:sandscomments@nassaucounty.ny.gov) [[sandscomments@nassaucounty.ny.gov](mailto:sandscomments@nassaucounty.ny.gov)] to help residents submit their environmental comments. Now is your opportunity to submit comments regarding the draft environmental impact statement to [sandscomments@nassaucounty.ny.gov](mailto:sandscomments@nassaucounty.ny.gov). Don't delay! The deadline for DEIS comments is January 21. The DEIS has raised alarms amongst residents not only in our Village but also in surrounding communities about the negative impact of this enormous project.

### **KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR**

I'd like to share a reminder from the Garden City Fire Department regarding the importance of keeping fire hydrants clear during the winter months: Many hydrants near homes and businesses get buried under a snow

pile in winter months. Clearing a three-foot area around the hydrant in your yard or your neighbor's yard could be life saving. The few minutes it takes to do this could truly make the difference between life and death. Please join the Garden City Volunteer Firefighters in encouraging your friends and neighbors to "adopt a fire hydrant" near their home. There are about 1000 fire hydrants in Garden City!

### **SANITATION COLLECTION - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

Residents are reminded that there will be no garbage pickup on Monday, January 20, 2025. The holiday week collection schedule will be as follows:

#### **GARBAGE**

- Western Half of Village: Tuesday and Thursday
- Eastern Half of Village: Wednesday and Friday

#### **RUBBISH**

- Entire Village: Wednesday, January 29th

#### **RECYCLING**

- Residents scheduled for recycling on Monday, January 20th are asked to put their recyclables out on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

### **CRAYON INITIATIVE**

The Garden City Public Library is participating in the [Crayon Initiative](#) by hosting a crayon-collection box at the front counter to collect and recycle crayons, in partnership with Rotary Club and Lions International. The initiative was the creation of [Bryan Ware](#) of Danville, California, in 2016. Through volunteers, he is collecting crayon pieces, melting them, and re-manufacturing them into larger, bright, clean, paper-free crayons and sending them free of charge to children in hospitals nationwide. Being larger and three-sided, they are easier for children to grip and won't roll off the hospital bed trays. On Long Island, they are being sent to The Children's Medical Center at NYU Langone Hospital, Cohen Children's Medical Center, Stony Brook Children's Hospital, and St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children. The [Crayon Initiative](#), to date, has collected and kept more than 381,000 pounds of crayons out of landfills and donated more than 863,800 packs of crayons to over 250 hospitals across the U.S. Residents are encouraged to donate today!

### **HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY**

- **FRIDAY, JANUARY 17** 11:00 a.m. Learn to speak Italian with retired GCHS teacher Lea Brunetti at the Library. Must register.
- **FRIDAY, JANUARY 17** 11:30 a.m. Chair Yoga with Tania at the Senior Center
- **FRIDAY, JANUARY 17** 12:30 p.m. Meditation Class at the Senior Center
- **SATURDAY, JANUARY 18** 10:00 a.m. Mah-Jongg at the Library. Players must bring their own games. Must register.
- **SUNDAY, JANUARY 18** 9:30 a.m. Pickleball at the St. Paul's Field House. Nominal fee.
- **SUNDAY, JANUARY 19** 3:00 p.m. Family Fun time for Garden City families at the St. Paul's Field House
- **MONDAY, JANUARY 20** 1:30 p.m. Monday Movie Matinée: *Ordinary Angels* at the Library
- **MONDAY, JANUARY 20** 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball in the St. Paul's Field House. Nominal fee.
- **TUESDAY, JANUARY 21** 7:00 p.m. Teen Paint Night at the Library. Must register.
- **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22** 7:30 p.m. Adult Basketball at the Field House. Nominal

fee.

• **THURSDAY, JANUARY 23** Art class at the Senior Center. Ten-week session; \$140. Register at the Senior Center or Recreation Office.

• **THURSDAY, JANUARY 23** 7:30 p.m. Adult Volleyball in the St. Paul's Field House. Nominal fee.

• **FRIDAY, JANUARY 24** Chess 4 Community's Plan and Learn at the Senior Center. All ages and levels are welcome.

• **MONDAY, JANUARY 27** 7:00 p.m. Get organized with Annmarie Brogan and Marie Limpert of Organize Me! of NY, LLC.

• **TUESDAY, JANUARY 28** 7:00 p.m. Reiki with Kathleen Gunning at the Library. Must register.