

March 19, 2025

With my last meeting this week as Mayor, I wish the best of luck to our new Board of Trustees and offer my support in the future. Their success will be the success of our Village, and I will always endeavor to support the Village I care deeply about and the trustees leading the Village. I was fortunate to grow up in this tight knit community, I raised my three children here, and my father, who is my number one advisor, was lucky to grow up in our wonderful Village as well. Garden City has been good to my family, and I will always look for ways to help it thrive. Keeping the Village such a special place is of utmost importance, and I like many others have never hesitated to put in the hours required by these Board positions because I realize hard working volunteers make our community so special.

Having worked with four different boards over the last four years, and having seen many talented volunteers in their efforts on behalf of the Village, I leave the Board with a few words of advice. While your talents are varied and your passion clear, the single most important trait of a Village leader is being candid and straight with residents. There is a reason we are called trustees. We need to be people residents can trust. My other advice is to focus on listening to consultants we hire. They were chosen for their expertise and our Village will benefit from listening and learning from them.

Before joining the BOT I was warned about St. Paul's being "really bad," and it wasn't referring to the condition of the building. John Kordes called it a cancer in our community. John Kordes is right. How do we fix this and move forward? The answer is not clear. What I suggest as the best medicine is speaking with complete candor always, even when it isn't easy.

Last week Walter Beal spoke the truth in his letter to the editor. Every resident should read that letter. I did not know Walter before I asked him to join my advisory committee. I asked for his help knowing he had expertise and knowledge of the building that no one else in the community had. I also heard great things about his character and he lived up to those expectations. He is speaking the truth, even though it may not be what people want to hear.

Many great things have happened in our Village over the last four years, and I hope for great things in the future. The open elections that FABGC brought to our Village has resulted in a new accountability. Though the elections were not contested this year, we saw candidates going out to residents with promises - that would not have happened before 2021 - and I think that is a positive change. While I am disappointed that listening to residents on St. Paul's was not a campaign promise I heard this year, the many others listed are important priorities for our Village and I applaud the candidates for broadcasting their support of capital improvements at the library and for our volunteer fire department, traffic calming, investment in water, improvements to our tree program, open space and beautification. These are issues I ran on three times and issues we are united on.

I will share in my next Mayor's column what I learned about the Westerman Report and what I still don't know - a cautionary tale. Before my term ends I will also share a closing report from the very talented Mayor's Advisory Committee on St. Paul's.

I thank the residents of Garden City for giving me the opportunity to serve the Village and have a positive impact. It's been incredibly rewarding and an honor.

VILLAGE ELECTION RESULTS

Thank you to all the residents who came out to vote in our Village Election on March 18th, and congratulations to Mayor-elect Ed Finneran, Trustee Michele Beach Harrington and newly elected Trustees

Richard Catalano and Yvonne Varano. These volunteer positions are extremely important for the Village, and your willingness to step into these critical roles makes our unique volunteer form of government work. At the same time, I would like to extend sincere thanks to Deputy Mayor Bruce Chester for his contributions to the Village.

Here are the official, certified Election results. This tally includes absentee and early mail ballots:

- Mayor, Two-Year Term: Edward T. Finneran 824 votes
- Trustee, Two-Year Term: Michele Beach Harrington 789 votes
- Trustee, Two-Year Term: Richard Catalano 799 votes
- Trustee, Two-Year Term: Yvonne Varano 783 votes
- Village Justice, Four-Year Term: Allen S. Mathers 762 votes

BUDGET SESSIONS

The Board of Trustees is conducting work sessions to review the [Tentative 2025-26 Operating and Capital Budgets](#) in person in the Village Hall Board Room and via Zoom. Here is the remaining schedule (Budget Session #1 took place March 19):

Budget Work Session 2

Tuesday, March 25, 2025: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

- Recreation, Pool and Tennis
- Library
- Police Department

Budget Work Session 3

Thursday, March 27, 2025: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

- Finance Department / Other Unallocated Expenses & Revenues / Insurance Reserve
- Building Department
- Administration
- Summary of Budget Changes

Public Hearing

Monday, April 7, 2025: 7:30 p.m.

- Public Hearing and Adoption of Budget

STAY CONNECTED - DOWNLOAD MYGARDENCITY APP

More than 100 residents have already downloaded the new Village App, MyGardenCity. Have you? Stay informed by downloading it today to receive important notifications and easily access all the latest from Village Hall, the Garden City Library, Recreation and the Senior Center!

VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION

As theft from vehicle incidents continue to challenge our community and communities throughout Nassau County, some individuals are taking advantage of unlocked cars, particularly during those quiet overnight

hours. Thieves are checking for unlocked vehicles, and, unfortunately, when they find one, they're making off with everything from loose change to personal belongings. In some cases, the subject was able to steal a vehicle when they located a key or smart key/fob. In light of this, the Police Department wants to remind everyone to take a few simple precautions:

- Always lock your vehicle, even if you're running into the house for a minute.
- Don't leave valuables in plain sight; even an old gym bag can look like treasure to a thief.
- Never leave or hide a key, smart key/key fob, valet key, or spare key in your vehicle.
- Never leave your car running, unattended, or unlocked.
- If possible, park your vehicle in a locked garage.
- Park your vehicle in well-lit areas.
- Keep the exterior of homes and driveways well-illuminated.
- Close all your vehicle windows completely when parked.
- Consider installing a GPS system, a visible anti-theft device, or an audible alarm.
- Never leave valuable personal property in your vehicle.
- Also, secure your garage door opener to prevent access to your home.
- Install surveillance cameras.
- If you see anything suspicious—whether it's someone loitering near cars or trying door handles—don't hesitate to report it.

Commissioner Jackson reminds everyone that thefts involving unoccupied vehicles are often just crimes of opportunity. When simple precautions are taken to reduce that opportunity, the likelihood of someone entering your vehicle is drastically reduced. In addition, alert residents are often instrumental in the apprehension of criminals, particularly subjects who commit larcenies involving vehicles. Residents are encouraged to promptly call 911 and report suspicious activities, people, noises, or vehicles, including license plate numbers, to the Police Department. In addition, residents and property owners with video surveillance footage of a crime on their property or a neighbor's property are encouraged to contact the Detective Division at 465-4108.

HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY

- **MONDAY, MARCH 24** 1:30 p.m. Monday Movie Matinée: *Wicked* at the Library
- **MONDAY, MARCH 24** 1:30 p.m. Little Listeners Storytime at the Library. Must register.
- **MONDAY, MARCH 24** 7:30 p.m. Adult basketball at the Field House. Nominal fee.
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 25** 4:00 p.m. Tween Tuesdays: Bracelet Making at the Library. Must register.
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 25** 7:00 p.m. Yoga With Kimberly at the Library. Must register.
- **TUESDAY, MARCH 25** 7:30 p.m. Budget Work Session #2 at Village Hall

- **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26** 4:00 p.m. STEAM Club for K-2nd Grade. Must register.
- **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26** 6:30 p.m. Narcan training at the Library. Registration required at toh311.net/narcan-signup.
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 27** 10:00 a.m. Mah-Jongg at the Library. Must register.
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 27** 7:30 p.m. Adult volleyball and soccer at the Field House. Nominal fee.
- **FRIDAY, MARCH 28** 11:00 a.m. Spring BINGO at the Library. Must register.
- **TUESDAY, APRIL 1** 7:00 p.m. Teen Paint Night at the Library. Must register.
- **SATURDAY, APRIL 26** 9:00 a.m. Flea Market at the Bird Sanctuary. Entry is free.