

April 3, 2025

In this my last mayor's column I want to thank you, the residents of the Village, for a truly amazing four years. It was an honor and a privilege. The Village is something I am passionate about, and being part of actions to preserve and protect it has brought me great joy. I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you and working with you in different capacities. What makes our Village so special is you, the residents. Our Village will always need strong leadership to keep Garden City the amazing place it is today, and I highly recommend getting involved. I also want to sincerely thank our very talented Village staff who I have had the pleasure of working with over the last four years.

Many of the actions I am proudest of are the ones that have positively impacted the quality of life of residents and the preservation of our community's character. They have all involved working collaboratively with trustees and members of boards and commissions. I thank them all for working on these important Village matters. We opted out of the sale of marijuana products in the Village, restricted vape shops and other uses, passed a common sense summertime ban on gas powered leaf blowers, passed a law prohibiting short time rentals (AirBNBs), took measurable steps to preserve and improve our tree canopy with the hiring of an arborist, a new tree policy and amendments to tree code, designated over a dozen Village properties as parkland, placing an added layer of protection on green space in our Village, waged a robust and sustained opposition to the LV Sands Casino Project at the HUB, undertook a Village-wide study on traffic calming which provided new tools and a scientific approach to make our streets safer and address cut through traffic and speeding, and passed a much-needed new pool code for the Village. There was even more, but I mention these to highlight what local government can accomplish when people work together.

One of the most difficult issues in our Village is the St Paul's saga, and while I have not been able to solve that one, I am sharing the insightful closing report of my Mayor's Advisory Committee on St. Paul's. I had the honor of working with five incredibly talented residents with diverse skills and opinions on St Paul's, unique knowledge of the building and our community, and brilliant minds. The report on the webpage under "2024 Data Driven Approach" sets forth the research and conclusions of this group and it is a resource that is there for possible use in the future.

I have been a strong advocate for transparency as a candidate and at every step of the way as I served our Village. That my term ended with my release of emails uncovering something very ugly preceding the 2023 Public Opinion Poll is unfortunate, but it had to be done, and I did it because you, the residents of this great Village, deserve this type of real transparency. If you are concerned that we are going down a similar path again with a questionable St. Paul's Survey, I share your concerns. As Louis Brandeis wrote, "sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." If I'm remembered for my commitment to upholding the Sunshine Laws, I'll take that, and I only hope future boards follow my lead.

#### **ST. PAUL'S SURVEY AND FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS ON INDOOR POOL**

Residents should receive the St. Paul's survey in the mail this week that was prepared by Mayor Elect Finneran and Trustees Courtney, Muldoon, Tai, Harrington, and Torino. It is an opportunity for residents to let their desires be known, even if that means writing it in, and I encourage residents to participate in the survey. Moreover, the second part of the survey is an opportunity to provide input on a potential indoor pool project separate from the St Paul's options described in the survey. The pool questions are a separate issue from the St. Paul's questions, as none of the St. Paul's options for which cost estimates were prepared include a pool, but are needed to follow up on the interest in an indoor pool demonstrated by residents in the recreation survey. This will provide the Board of Trustees further information on resident interest in an indoor pool facility in the Village and willingness to fund such a project. Completed surveys should be returned to ETC in the envelope provided. ETC is the company responsible for tallying the results. The compilation and analysis

of the results are expected to take a few weeks and should be shared with the Board of Trustees and the community by the end of June. For any questions regarding the survey or the St. Paul's project, residents are encouraged to contact the team via email at [stpaulsquestions@gardencityny.net](mailto:stpaulsquestions@gardencityny.net)

### **STAY CONNECTED - DOWNLOAD MYGARDENCITY APP**

Nearly 700 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!

### **PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED VILLAGE BUDGET**

Following four budget work sessions the Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on the the [Tentative 2025-26 Operating and Capital Budgets](#) during the Monday, April 7 annual organizational meeting, which begins at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall and via Zoom.

### **LOCAL LAW - TREES**

The Board of Trustees adopted a Local Law to update Chapter 188 of the Village code regarding trees, adding a new article about planting on private property, amending another article about infested, dead or dangerous trees, shrubs and bushes, adding a section about permits, and adding another section about penalties, among other things. To read the Local Law in full, click the Government tab on the Village website. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York Secretary of State in accordance with Municipal Home Rule Law.

### **2025 GCAA BASEBALL/SOFTBALL OPENING DAY PARADE**

April 5, 2025, marks the GCAA Baseball/Softball Opening Day Parade, set to kick off at 9 a.m. The parade will begin on Franklin Avenue, proceeding south from 10th Street to 7th Street. Participants will then travel west on 7th Street to Hilton Avenue, head north on Hilton Avenue to Stewart Avenue, and finally, make their way east on Stewart Avenue to the Village Gazebo, where the Opening Ceremony will be held. To ensure a smooth experience for parade attendees, please note the following important details:

- Parking Field 9E will be closed at 8 a.m. for parade assembly. Plan your arrival accordingly.
- Motorists can expect road closures along the parade route between 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. We advise using alternate routes to reduce travel disruptions.

### **HAPPENING IN GARDEN CITY**

- **FRIDAY, APRIL 4** 11:00 a.m. Learn Italian at the Library. Must register.
- **SATURDAY, APRIL 5** 11:00 a.m. Long Island Music for Aardvarks at the Library. Must register.
- **MONDAY, APRIL 7** 7:30 p.m. Budget Public Hearing and Organizational Meeting at Village Hall and via Zoom
- **MONDAY, APRIL 7** 1:30 p.m. Movie Matinée: *Hoosiers* at the Library
- **TUESDAY, APRIL 8** 11:00 a.m. Learn Libby, Flipster and Hoopla at the Library. Must register.
- **TUESDAY, APRIL 8** 7:00 p.m. Yoga With Kimberly at the Library. Must register.
- **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9** 10:00 a.m. Baby and Me Yoga Ages Birth-17 Months at the Library. Just register.
- **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9** 11:15 a.m. Toddler and Me Yoga Ages 18 Months-5 Years at the Library.

Must register.

- **THURSDAY, APRIL 11** 7:30 p.m. Adult volleyball and soccer at the Field House. Nominal fee.
- **SATURDAY, APRIL 12** 10:00 a.m. Defensive Driving Course with Empire Safety Council at the Library. Must register in person.
- **TUESDAY, APRIL 15** 7:00 p.m. Book discussion: *On Fire Island* at the Library. Must register.
- **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16** 2:00 p.m. Mary Maguire Presents “The Hermitage” Part II at the Library
- **SATURDAY, APRIL 19** 10:00 a.m. Easter egg hunt at St. Paul’s Fields.
- **SUNDAY, APRIL 20** 12:00 p.m. 70th annual Easter Sunday Vintage Car Parade
- **SATURDAY, APRIL 26** 9:00 a.m. Flea Market at the Bird Sanctuary. Free entry.