

May 7, 2025

The St. Paul's survey is currently front and center and the Board's campaign to encourage significant participation continues with the goal of getting strong resident participation. We expect to keep the return period open for another two weeks or so. As a quick reminder, you can also fill out the survey online if more convenient at <https://gardencitystpaulssurvey.org>.

Additionally, with the unexpected news from the County that LV Sands would be pulling out of the "contest" for one of the three down state casino licenses seemingly a major positive, we still have our defenses on high alert. Somewhat incredulously, the County simultaneously announced that another gaming entity may be "stepping into" LV Sands' shoes and substituting into their bid to build a casino complex at the Coliseum grounds. Rest assured that we will not rest until the threat of a casino buildup on our doorstep is "DEAD IN THE WATER." We continue to monitor developments closely.

One final note...it came to my attention last week that one of our senior staffers, while on the job, was subject to some very abusive behavior by a resident. The situation developed quickly and was smartly diffused by the staffer but only after she was made to feel exceptionally uncomfortable. Our 240+ Village employees of all ranks should ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS be treated with respect and considerate behavior...even if the resident believes they have a legitimate "beef" with the Village. Be advised that any such behavior will be noted by us and a second outburst will be handled as circumstances dictate.

Fellow Trustee Jessica Tai is co-chairperson of the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB), which operates under the Board of Trustees and addresses environmental issues that impact our Village. I asked her to provide an update on the great work the EAB is doing:

Committed to preserving our beautiful natural surroundings—including trees, parks, green spaces, fields and water—the EAB plays a crucial role in enhancing our community's ecological health. To celebrate Earth Day, the EAB hosted a pollinator garden opening ceremony at the Village Green, which included a delightful butterfly release.

Last year, the EAB collaborated with the Water Department to conduct a lead service line inventory and launched a smart irrigation sprinkler rebate program. In the coming year, the EAB will focus on several important initiatives, including improving compliance at the Transfer Station, promoting proper pet waste disposal, collaborating with Recreation and Parks on discussions regarding turf and athletic field treatments, advancing water treatment and conservation efforts, and developing community gardens. We warmly invite you to join our discussions and share your ideas!

### **OUTDOOR DINING PERMITS**

The Building Department has issued 21 outdoor dining permits, to date. The remaining 14 are currently pending review. Food establishments on Seventh Street, New Hyde Park Road and Franklin Avenue have tables and chairs outside their shops and restaurants for your convenience and enjoyment. Now that the weather is warming, I hope that you will stop by these establishments and enjoy a cup of coffee, breakfast, lunch and/or dinner. Also, let the merchants know that you appreciate their efforts and enjoy the many fine tastes of Garden City.

### **NO EMPTY CHAIR CAMPAIGN RESULTS**

From Monday, April 21st through Friday, April 25th, the Garden City Police Department proudly participated in the No Empty Chair Campaign in collaboration with the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety

Committee. This vital enforcement and education initiative focused on promoting safe driving habits among young drivers, particularly in areas surrounding local schools, student walking zones, and bus stops. The primary goal of the No Empty Chair Campaign is to ensure that students develop safe driving habits that will allow them to attend their proms and graduation ceremonies. By raising awareness about the dangers of reckless driving, we hope to significantly reduce the number of motor vehicle crashes, which are currently the leading cause of unintentional deaths for 16 and 17-year-olds. Throughout the campaign, the Garden City Police Department focused on enforcing laws related to excessive speeding, unsafe driving behaviors, seatbelt and child safety seat usage, cell phone and texting violations, passing stopped school buses, and underage drinking. These enforcement efforts are crucial to fostering a culture of safety and responsibility among young drivers. As a result of this initiative, the Department issued 178 tickets for various traffic and safety violations, including:

- 31 Excessive Speed in a School Zone Violations
- 24 Excessive Speed Violations
- 10 Cellphone/Texting Violations
- 2 Seatbelt/Occupant Restraint Violations
- 32 Suspended License/Registration Incidents
- 17 Unlicensed Operator Violations
- 9 Uninsured Operation Violations
- 53 Additional Moving Traffic Violations

### **THE COMMUNITY GARDEN IS BACK!**

Garden City Recreation is offering garden plots in front of the Recreation Office at 108 Rockaway Ave. Registration for a plot in the Community Garden is ongoing; the garden will officially open Monday, May 12. Space is very limited. All plots are free for residents but registration is required. Please note, this program is on a first come first serve basis. Plots will not be held for residents who previously gardened with us.

### **GC POOL MEMBERSHIPS**

The Garden City Pool opens Saturday, June 14 for another season of fun in the sun! Registration is available online via the CommunityPass registration system. Due to a change in recreation software every household must create a new account. To create a new account, register an existing account, login or register for a program, follow the instructions on the CommunityPass site. In order to verify your residency on your account and gain access to register, you must send a copy of your driver's license and a utility bill to [gcrec@gardencityny.net](mailto:gcrec@gardencityny.net).

#### How to Create a Family Account:

1. Visit <https://register.capturepoint.com/GCRecandParks>
2. Click on the 'Create an Account' button.
3. Complete the 'Account Creation' fields and click on Create at the bottom of the page.
4. On the next page read the CommunityPass Privacy Statement and click "Accept." Then click "Finish."

Only one account per family is permitted. Your account will say "unverified" until approved by a Rec staff member. You will not be able to purchase a pool membership until your account has been created and verified.