

June 14, 2023

Many are asking what is the next step on St. Paul's? I have not addressed this topic in my last few Mayor's columns because I realize the importance of getting this right after three decades, and it is absolutely critical to have information that is as complete and accurate as possible provided to the community to move forward.

As I write this column, I am still awaiting the final report from cost estimator Westerman Construction. I have serious concerns that residents may assume we got a price on the plans displayed for weeks at Village Hall. We did not. The Board of Trustees is responsible for this process, and we must make sure it is fully transparent. Even with our best efforts at presenting alternatives and cost estimates, anyone who has done a home improvement or renovation project knows that there is a level of uncertainty when estimating costs, and with a building of this age and size, that uncertainty could be significant.

Whether the community supports an adaptive reuse plan involving restoration of the whole building or part of the building, or if there is community support for building something new behind the façade (or part of the façade) of the building, this will be by far the largest project ever undertaken by our Village, and I have been unable to find another Village of our size that has taken on a project of this potential scope and cost. Residents have raised concerns about the potential financial impact on the Village of undertaking a restoration project of this magnitude, and their concerns are valid.

Some details the Board of Trustees learned in its recent questions to the Westerman firm are being shared so my concerns are understood more clearly:

1. We did not get pricing on the detailed plans displayed in Village Hall.
2. Though it has been difficult for me to get a direct answer to why we did not get pricing on the plans we displayed and provided to Westerman Construction, I was finally told it was because the cost would have been too high.
3. It is my hope that the pricing in the final report will be clear. From responses to the BOT questions answered by Lloyd Westerman we know that:
 - The adaptive reuse cost estimate only included HVAC ventilation in the basement, first and second floors.
 - The adaptive reuse cost estimate only included 50 new windows, with 584 being boarded up. The Westerman firm has agreed to provide an estimate that includes replacing all the windows as part of phase 1.
 - There would be an additional charge to provide a cost estimate to restore the entire building or to get an estimate for saving some elements of the building such as the clock tower or parts of the building like the entrance.
 - Clarification will be provided by Westerman Construction as to the biggest risks with Phase 1, as well as Phase 2 or 3.
 - Worst case scenario will be clarified in the report which is that the entire top level would have to be rebuilt.

I will be reporting on our next steps after receiving the final report and consulting with the Board of Trustees. In response to questions about whether there will be another committee, and when it will be announced, I am discussing this with members of the Board of Trustees, and suspect it will be residents with specific areas of expertise that will be engaged as needed during this process. If you did not read the history I shared in the May 3 Mayor's Column [link: <https://www.gardencityny.net/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/323>], I suggest you take a few minutes to read it. You will understand why I have been hearing feedback from residents who are urging "No More Committees!"

RECYCLING RIGHT

The Environmental Advisory Board has been working with the Village to help educate residents about our recycling program and how important it is that we put the right items in the green bins. If residents don't follow the guidelines and put plastics that aren't 1s or 2s in the bin, this can result in the recycling load being rejected. This not only means more refuse going to landfills, but it also costs the Village money. We pay less money for recycling loads that are accepted. Thank you to EAB member Evelyn Fasano who has been providing the content for our new feature in the *Garden City News*, "Recycling Tip of the Week."

LAW & ORDER AWARDS

The William Bradford Turner American Legion Post hosted its annual Law and Order Night June 7. The ceremony recognizes outstanding contributions to the community by members of the Fire and Police Departments. Congratulations to this year's recipients, Firefighter Ryan Moody and Garden City Police Officer John Russell.

GARDEN CITY LIBRARY CLOSED SUNDAYS DURING SUMMER

The Garden City Public Library will be closed on Sundays for the summer beginning Father's Day, June 18, 2023. The Library's regular hours from Monday through Saturday remain unchanged. Regular Sunday hours will resume after Labor Day, beginning Sunday, September 10. You can visit the Library 24/7 at www.gardencitypl.org to access online services such as electronic databases and downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, and periodicals.

PLEASE WATER OUR VILLAGE TREES

If you have recently had a tree planted in front of your home, please take the time to water it. The proper way to water is to first loosen the soil around the tree if it has become baked hard and then allow a hose to run at the base of the tree at a rate slow enough so that the water will be absorbed into the area around the tree trunk. If you are using a hose at the base of the tree, please do not block any Village sidewalks to avoid injury to pedestrians. If your tree can't be reached with a hose, a bucket full of water every 2-3 days will suffice. Residents are reminded that watering hours are from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days and even-numbered addresses on even-numbered days. Thank you for your cooperation

LIBRARY BOOKS AT THE POOL

Enjoy a good book this summer, compliments of the Friends of the Garden City Public Library. The Friends of the Garden City Public Library are pleased to continue the long held tradition of the Library pool books. Residents are welcome to read and enjoy these books at no charge and to pass them along to others. No library card is required, though having a library card is always a great idea! Look for the sign in the entryway and the Adult section of the Pool. The books in the entryway are of general interest for all age groups (children, young adults, and adults), while the books in the adult section cater to adult readers.

PSEG AERIAL INSPECTIONS

Between June 12 - 23, PSEG Long Island will be conducting aerial (helicopter) inspections of assets throughout its service territory (Nassau, Suffolk, Rockaways) in order to provide reliable service. Please note that the helicopter is black with red lettering that reads "UTILITY PATROL."

EVENTS THIS WEEK IN GARDEN CITY

MONDAY, JUNE 19 1:30 p.m. [Monday Movie Matinee](#) *80 for Brady* at the Library

TUESDAY, JUNE 20 6:30 p.m. [Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting](#) at Village Hall and via Zoom

TUESDAY, JUNE 20 11:15 a.m. [Chair Yoga](#) with Maggie at the Senior Center for residents ages 60 and older

TUESDAY, JUNE 20 2:30 p.m. [Line or Chair Dancing](#) with Felicia at the Senior Center for residents ages 60 and older

TUESDAY, JUNE 20 7:30 p.m. Recreation Commission Meeting in the Snack Bar Dining Room at the Garden City Pool

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 7:00 p.m. [Garden City's Latest National Register Listing Lecture](#) by Daniel Looney, NC Executive Assistant DA at the Garden City Historical Society Museum

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Summer Evening Yoga Class at the Senior Center. To register, please visit the Recreation and Parks Office at 108 Rockaway Avenue or, if you have a password you can

register online at www.reconline.gardencityny.net

FRIDAY, JUNE 23 6:00 p.m. “School’s Out For Summer” [promenade](#) on Seventh Street

SATURDAY, JUNE 24 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. [Defensive Driving Course](#) with the Empire Safety Council at the Library [Registration is required](#)

TUESDAY, JUNE 27 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. [Art Lecture](#) with Mary Maguire at the Library

TUESDAY, JUNE 27 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. [Adult Movie Night](#): *The Hundred-Foot Journey* at the Library