

July 12, 2023

As residents enjoy their summer vacations, and the many activities offered in our Village during the summer months, the Board of Trustees and Village Staff are working to prepare for an upcoming vote on the St. Paul's Main Building. Information sessions are being planned to prepare for the vote, one of which will address financing of any of the possible projects on the St. Paul's Main Building, whether it is a restoration project, a façade restoration and new construction project, or demolition. How municipal projects may be financed depends on the type of project, and we recognize that residents are interested in understanding the impact any project would have on their taxes. Our Village Treasurer, Irene Woo, had several meetings with the prior Mayor's St. Paul's Committee on this topic, and she will be working with our financial advisor and bond counsel to provide a clear presentation for residents on the financial impact of different choices the Village may make on the St. Paul's Main Building. We are working to present the clearest information available as to the condition of the building, the options that have been explored, and the cost estimates we have gotten for different alternatives. I am committed to sharing the information with residents clearly and without any bias. As many of you will appreciate, we are working hard to simplify the messaging and voting options on an issue with much complexity.

As far as the condition of the building, I have been advised that tours of the building are not recommended, and having seen the inside of the building, I do not disagree. What I am working on is creating a way for all residents to have an unfiltered view of the present interior of the building without subjecting anyone to the risks of a tour.

SANDS CASINO UPDATE

At the July 2 Village Meet and Greet, two residents from Say No to the Casino (Monica Kiely and Rich Catalano) gave a brief overview of where we are in the Sands casino licensing process. The following is a recap of their presentation:

The Nassau County legislature voted on May 22 to approve the transfer of a long-term lease for the Nassau Hub property to the Las Vegas Sands Corp. The Sands can now move forward with the lengthy process of applying for a New York State Gaming License. After the Sands submits their initial application for the license, two local requirements must be met:

- The Sands must demonstrate public support for a casino by obtaining the approval of a local Community Advisory Committee (the CAC). There will be five members of the CAC, and they will be appointed (1 apiece) by the following elected officials: Governor Kathy Hochul, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, NY State Senator Kevin Thomas, NY State Assembly Member Ed Ra, and Town of Hempstead Supervisor Don Clavin. The five CAC members have not yet been appointed. According to the NY Gaming Facility Location Board (GFLB), each CAC will elect a Chairperson, solicit and review public comments, and hold public meetings. The CAC must hold a vote-with a two-thirds threshold-to establish public support approving or disapproving the application. The GFLB can consider only applications that are approved by a two-thirds threshold by the local CAC. The Say No group is awaiting confirmation from the GFLB that the 2/3 minimum threshold for a 5-person committee means that 4 of the 5 committee members must be in agreement in order to make a recommendation.
- The Sands project must receive zoning approval from the Town of Hempstead. Before the Town of Hempstead Council can vote to rezone the Nassau Hub property to permit a casino and related resort facility, an Environmental Impact Statement or EIS is required to be prepared in accordance with the New York State Environment Quality Review Act or SEQRA. The Town of Hempstead has retained Nelson Pope Voorhis as their environmental consultant.

At this time, there is no scheduled timetable for these events. The Say No to the Casino group urged their fellow residents to stay engaged, keep informed, and help to spread the word that we are still in the very early stages of this process. Three downstate gaming licenses will be awarded, and the conventional wisdom is that one will go to Aqueduct/Resorts World and one will go to Yonkers/Empire City. There are at least five other

locations vying for the same gaming license that Las Vegas Sands would like to secure, therefore the proposal to build a casino at the Nassau Hub location is far from being a certainty.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE VILLAGE

The Village of Garden City is currently accepting candidates for the positions of Village Clerk, Horticulturist, Maintenance Helper and Water and Sewer Servicer. You can read the full job descriptions on our website. All interested candidates should email resumes to humanresources@gardencityny.net.

GC POOL ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

Please consider donating the Garden City Pool annual food drive to benefit The INN. Donations will be accepted July 22-25 in the Pool Lobby. Donation most needed include canned goods, ground coffee, canned soup, peanut butter, pasta, hot and cold cereals, rice, pancake mix, syrup, powdered milk, jelly, canned stew and chili, bottled water, juice boxes, brown paper lunch bags and toiletries. Needed baby items include baby formula, baby food, cereal and diapers, especially sizes 4 and up.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION UPDATE: CUT-THROUGH TRAFFIC

Because of the village’s location, cut through traffic is a significant problem. Based on the Satellite Study, we are now looking at Tanners Pond Road, North Avenue, First Street, Meadow Street and Wetherill Road, which are all impacted by cut through traffic and whether traffic calming devices are possible on any of those roads. Traffic calming devices include, but are not limited to, speed humps, chokers and pedestrian plazas. Essentially, traffic calming devices discourage cut through traffic, reduce vehicle speed and protect pedestrians. As has been shown on Fourth Street, speed humps are an effective way to reduce cut-through traffic and substantially reduce average speeds of vehicles, thereby enhancing safety. The first priority with traffic calming devices remains school zones.

DOGS PROHIBITED AT ALL VILLAGE PARKS

Residents are reminded that dogs are not permitted in any of the Village parks, including the St. Paul’s fields. Recently, we’ve seen an increasing number of people walking their pooches, or worse, letting them run off leash, in our facilities. Some residents have become aggressive towards our employees when they are approached and informed that their dogs are not permitted. We don’t permit dogs due to the possibility that a child may be bitten or nipped by a dog, and also the dogs may be injured by a rogue baseball or other object.

2023 FRIDAY NIGHT PROMENADES

The Garden City Chamber of Commerce and The Village of Garden City is once again presenting the highly anticipated Friday Night Promenades throughout the summer of 2023. Every Friday night on Seventh Street between 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Remaining promenade themes include:

- 7/21 Christmas in July

- 8/4 Summer Breeze

- 8/18 Nashville Night

- 9/1 Aloha Luau

- 9/15 Big Pineapple Circus

SUMMERTIME GAZEBO CONCERT SERIES

The Garden City Recreation and Parks Department is pleased to announce its 2023 schedule of summer concerts:

- July 13 Radio Flashback - The best of Styx, Boston, Meatloaf, Doobie Brothers, Foreigner and ELO
- July 20 Manhattan Skyline - An All Star group brings back the best of NY vocal harmonies
 - July 27 Risky Business - Old time Rock and Roll
 - August 3 Garth Brooks Tribute - They've got "Friends in Low Places"
 - August 10 Jenna Esposito - Tunes from the Great American Songbook
 - August 17 Beyond Fab - The best of the Beatles

All shows are performed at the Gazebo on the Village Green, located at the corner of Stewart and Hilton avenues. Shows begin promptly at 7:15 p.m. In the event of rain, shows will be moved indoors to Cluett Hall, on the grounds of St. Paul's, 295 Stewart Avenue. Due to limited seating at Cluett Hall, proof of residency in the Inc. Village will be required for admission to the show. For additional information about these shows, please call Garden City Recreation and Parks at 465-4075.

EVENTS THIS WEEK IN GARDEN CITY

- **MONDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 17-21** 10:00 a.m. [Free Playground Program](#) at all five neighborhood parks for Grades 1-8.
- **MONDAY, JULY 17** 1:30 p.m. [Monday Movie Matinee: He's Just Not That Into You](#) at the Library
- **TUESDAY, JULY 18** 6:30 p.m. [Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting](#) at Village Hall
- **MONDAY, JULY 17** 6:30 p.m. [Magic by Amore](#) at Grove Park. Free event sponsored by Recreation and Parks
- **WEDNESDAY, JULY 19** 7:30 p.m. [Environmental Advisory Board Meeting](#) at Village Hall and via Zoom
- **THURSDAY, JULY 20** 7:15 p.m. [Gazebo Concert on the Village Green](#): Manhattan Skyline brings back the best of NY vocal harmonies
- **THURSDAY, JULY 20** 7:30 p.m. [Board of Trustees Meeting](#) at Village Hall and via Zoom
- **FRIDAY, JULY 21** 10:00 a.m. [Chair Exercise with Felicia](#) at the Senior Center
- **FRIDAY, JULY 21** 6:00 p.m. [Friday Night Promenade](#): Christmas in July on Seventh Street