

August 16, 2023

It's time. More than 30 years after purchasing the St. Paul's property, and after many years of committee work and proposals, I am asking the Board of Trustees this week to invite all residents to participate in an important opinion poll on the St. Paul's Main Building on Saturday, October 21 between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. The poll will be open to all registered voters who are residents of the Village. It will be held at the St. Paul's Field House. Absentee ballots will be available.

While no one can dispute the immense benefit to the community of the field space acquired in the 1993 purchase, space which is so well used by our community, the St. Paul's Main Building has been vacant since the day it was purchased in 1993. In 2009, a decision was made to stop heating the building as a cost-saving measure, and in recent years residents have noticed the steady decline in its appearance. With multiple floors failing, the building is no longer in a condition to even offer residents interested in seeing the inside a tour. In response to recent requests, I videotaped the parts of the building I have been in to share what the inside now looks like with residents. I plan to share the videos and current photos on the Garden City Village website. The latest consultant predicted a few bad winters could lead to the demise of St. Paul's: "The state that St. Paul's is in now, unheated and partially exposed to the elements, will not survive if left as is. Its demise could be accelerated by bad winters, humid summers and within a few years it will begin to collapse as sections of the building already have."

While there are residents who will be advocating on the topic of what to do with the St. Paul's Main Building, I am committed to presenting the information we have to residents with absolutely no bias, and a majority of the Board of Trustees is committed to this as well. I ran for elected office as part of a group that saw the importance of open elections and Village leaders listening to residents. I recognize that some are opposed to my efforts to let residents be heard on the topic of St. Paul's. Their opposition has manifested itself in baseless claims, but I would like to assure you that these actions will not deter me and a majority of the Board of Trustees from delivering what we have promised so many times.

Much thought went into drafting the ballot to make sure that it is fair and that it delivers valuable information to the Board of Trustees to move forward. We recognize as will residents that this is only a first step, and that more work will be needed after the poll, regardless of the outcome. To be clear, this poll is to inform us on resident sentiment on preservation of part or all of the St. Paul's Main Building. It is not about whether we should have a community center or a recreation center. These can be part of any of the options that are being discussed. After we learn the community's sentiment on preservation, it is my plan to immediately focus on addressing demand for a recreation or community center.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

Part of the great experience of volunteering is learning new skills using the various tools and equipment firefighters carry in their fleet of apparatus. This month, some of GC's newest probationary volunteer firefighters learned forcible entry techniques using the Department's training door prop. Also this month, firefighters trained on aerial ladder operations in the Village, and radiological/nuclear weapons of mass destruction in conjunction with FEMA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security training programs. At the Nassau County Fire Service Academy, volunteers received training on emergency and fire response to incidents involving Compressed Natural Gas NICE buses. The academy training also included strategies and tactics in handling these emergencies. Conceptual plans for the Department's very own training facility at the old Village Incinerator building are under review. Conceptual plans include new drainage, hydrants, security fencing and access gates. Volunteers respond to hundreds of calls for assistance throughout the year, helping fellow neighbors in their time of need. If interested in volunteering, visit the Department's Recruitment page, email membership@gcfdny.com or call 516-465-4142.

E-WASTE ITEMS ACCEPTED AT MUNICIPAL SERVICE YARD

The Garden City Municipal Service Yard, located at 2 Cherry Valley Avenue, accepts e-waste products. The following is a list of acceptable items:

- ✓ Amplifiers
- ✓ Batteries
- ✓ Cables
- ✓ Cameras
- ✓ CD-ROM
- ✓ Cell Phones
- ✓ Computers & Mice
- ✓ Copiers
- ✓ CRT Monitors
- ✓ CRT Televisions
- ✓ DVD Players
- ✓ Digital Cameras
- ✓ Fax Machines
- ✓ Floppy Drives
- ✓ Game Systems
- ✓ Hard Drives
- ✓ Holiday Lights
- ✓ Keyboards
- ✓ Laptops
- ✓ LCD Monitors
- ✓ LCD TVs
- ✓ Network Equipment
- ✓ Plasma TVs
- ✓ Power Supplies
- ✓ Printers

- ✓ Routers
- ✓ Scanners
- ✓ Servers
- ✓ Speakers
- ✓ Switches
- ✓ Telecom
- ✓ VHS Tapes
- ✓ Wireless Equipment

Exceptions: No kitchen appliances, Freon units, washers, dryers, blow dryers, electric razors or microwaves.

BLOOD DRIVE AT LIBRARY AUGUST 23

New York Blood Services will hold a blood drive at the Garden City Public Library on Wednesday, August 23, 2023 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room on the lower level of the Library. Area hospitals are in need of local residents' help. Each donation can help to save up to three lives. All donors will receive a voucher for a \$10 Gift Card of their choice (electronically fulfilled). Appointments are strongly preferred, walk-ins are welcomed only if capacity permits. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-688-0900 to schedule an appointment or for any medical questions concerning blood donations or visit the Garden City Public Library website at www.gardencitypl.org.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK IN GARDEN CITY

- **FRIDAY, AUGUST 18-31** Regular Library hours. Tweens & Teens Art Show at the Library.
- **FRIDAY, AUGUST 18** 12:30 p.m. Bobby Menges Memorial Blood Drive. Roosevelt Field Mall North Court.
- **FRIDAY, AUGUST 18** 6:00 p.m. Friday Night Promenade: Nashville Night on Seventh Street
- **SATURDAY, AUGUST 19** 10:00 a.m. Defensive Driving Course at the Library. Registration required.
- **SUNDAY, AUGUST 20** 2:00 p.m. Music at the Pool: Country Line Band. Guest fees apply.
- **MONDAY, AUGUST 21** 1:30 p.m. Monday Movie Matinee: *Book Club: The Next Chapter*
- **TUESDAY, AUGUST 22** 2:30 p.m. Line or Chair Dancing with Felicia at the Senior Center
- **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23** 1:00 p.m. Blood Drive at the Library. Appointments preferred.
- **THURSDAY, AUGUST 24** 1:15 p.m. Chi Kung with Andrea at the Senior Center. Nominal charge.